**ALSWH Technical Report # 44: Appendices**

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# Appendix A: Collaborative research projects

## Current projects

### Reproductive health

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project ID: A525 | **Causal inference of smoking, nutrition, alcohol and physical activity on birth weight: A sibling analysis**. |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Alexis Hure - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Jennifer Powers - Research Centre for Generational Health and Ageing, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Catherine Chojenta - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Amy Anderson - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Ellie D Arcy - Health Intelligence Unit, NSW Health
* A/Prof Liz Holliday - Clinical Research Design, Information Technology and Statistical Support (CReDITSS) Unit, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Residual confounding is a major problem in observational studies, meaning that results must be interpreted with caution. Data from siblings provides the opportunity to better control for family characteristics, thereby reducing residual confounding and increasing causal inference. Sibling analysis allows for a separation of within‑family effects from between-family effects and simultaneous estimation of both. We will apply sibling analysis to birth weight data from the state‑based Perinatal Data Collections linked to the 1973-1978 ALSWH cohort. We intend to focus on the role of four key modifiable lifestyle factors: smoking; nutrition (diet and weight); alcohol; and physical activity, on birth weight. |
| Project ID: A639 | **Characteristics of young women with pregnancy intentions and aspirations for future children before and during pregnancy** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Briony Hill - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Helena Teede - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* A/Prof Lisa Moran - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Prof Helen Skouteris - Health and Social Care Unit, Monash University
* Mathew Ling - School of Psychology, Deakin University
* Dr Lauren Bruce - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Mamaru Awoke - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Comprehensive explorations of the characteristics of preconception women have not been conducted in Australian cohorts. This study aims to describe a range of factors that are associated with women's pregnancy intentions and desire to have children in the future using the 1973-78 ALSWH cohort. Specifically, we will investigate demographics, body mass index, psychosocial factors, lifestyle behaviours, and comorbidities of poor lifestyle behaviours (specifically polycystic ovary syndrome) among women intending to get pregnant or who desire to have children in the future. |
| Publications | Lifestyle and psychological factors associated with pregnancy intentions: Findings from a longitudinal cohort study of Australian women. Hill B, Ling M, Mishra G, Moran LJ, Teede HJ, Bruce L & Skouteris H. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2019, 16(24); 5094.Lifestyle and psychological factors of women with pregnancy intentions who become pregnant: Analysis of a longitudinal cohort of Australian women. Hill B, Awoke MA, Bergmeier H, Moran LJ, Mishra GD & Skouteris H. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, 2021, 10(4); 725. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Lifestyle and psychological characteristics of women with pregnancy intentions (poster)*. Hill B, Ling B, Skouteris H, Bruce L, Moran L, Teede H, & Mishra G. Australasian Society of Lifestyle Medicine Conference, Auckland, New Zealand, 7 - 9 June 2019.*Associations between future parenthood aspirations and lifestyle and psychological characteristics in women*. Hill B, Ling B, Skouteris H, Bruce L, Moran L, Teede H, & Mishra G. Australasian Society of Lifestyle Medicine Conference, Auckland, New Zealand, 7 - 9 June 2019. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project ID A672 | **Life course approach to preconception health** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Richard Hockey - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Improving lifestyle and health before pregnancy may provide an opportunity to help prevent complications during pregnancy. Previous projects in the ALSWH have shown that an unhealthy diet and weight gain in the years leading up to pregnancy were associated with a higher risk of developing gestational diabetes and hypertension. By taking a life course approach to pre-pregnancy lifestyle and health, this project aims to describe the prevalence of pre-pregnancy lifestyle and health‑related factors, and to examine whether these factors - and their timing and duration - are associated with adverse outcome in future pregnancies. These findings in Australian women form part of a larger project and will be compared with pre-pregnancy lifestyle and health-related factors in study populations from the UK. |
| Publications | Before the beginning: Nutrition and lifestyle in the preconception period and its importance for future health. Stephenson J, Heslehurst N, Hall J, Schoenaker DAJM, Hutchinson J, Cade J, Poston L, Barrett G, Crozier SR, Barker M, Kumaran K, Yajnik CS, Baird J & Mishra GD. *Lancet*, 2018, 391(10132); 1830-1841. |
| Conference / Presentations | *A life course approach to preconception health and pregnancy planning.* Mishra GD. 9th International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 23 - 26 February 2020. |
| Project ID: A690 | **The direct and indirect costs associated with endometriosis in Australia** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Richard Hockey - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Ingrid Rowlands - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* A/Prof Lisa Hall - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Judith Reddrop - Women's Wellbeing
* Prof Grant Montgomery - Institute for Molecular Biosciences, The University of Queensland
* Sifan Cao - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Karolina Olsarova - The University of Queensland
* A/Prof Tracy Comans - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | This study aims to match women’s self-reported doctor diagnosis of endometriosis with Commonwealth Medical Benefits Schedule (GP, Specialist visits) and state-based Admitted Patients Collections to provide evidence on the direct economic impacts of endometriosis in Australia from 1996 to 2016. It will also examine lost/reduced work productivity of women with endometriosis in terms of hours in paid work and unemployment (indirect economic impacts). |
| Project ID: A696A | **Unintended pregnancy and contraceptive use in women with chronic disease: Providing an evidence-base for Australia** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* A/Prof Deborah Bateson - Family Planning NSW
* Prof Jayne Lucke - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Nick Egan - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Lucy Leigh - Hunter Medical Research Institute
* Dr Zanna Franks - The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Unintended pregnancy remains high in developed countries despite access to high quality sexual and reproductive services. Some evidence exists that women with chronic diseases experience unintended pregnancy at significantly higher rates than women without chronic disease. For these women, unintended pregnancies are associated with serious adverse maternal and perinatal outcomes, including congenital abnormalities, pre-term labour, spontaneous abortion and foetal death. Optimised preconception care and reproductive life planning is critical to the prevention of unintended pregnancies and reduction in pregnancy-related complications in women with chronic diseases. Little information exists in the Australian context. This project aims to fill this knowledge gap.  |
| Publications | Increased chronic disease prevalence among the younger generation: Findings from a population-based data linkage study to inform chronic disease ascertainment among reproductive-aged Australian women. Harris Ml, Egan N, Forder PM & Loxton D. *PLOS ONE*, 2021. https://doi.org/[10.1371/journal.pone.0254668](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0254668) Contraceptive use among women through their later reproductive years: Findings from an Australian prospective cohort study. Harris ML, Egan N, Forder PM, Coombe J & Loxton D. *PLOS ONE*, 2021, 16(8); e0255913. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project ID: A744 | **The relationships between menstrual problems and endometriosis over time** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Ingrid Rowlands - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Richard Hockey - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Menstrual problems, such as severe period pain (dysmenorrhea), premenstrual syndrome (PMS), irregular periods and heavy menstrual bleeding, affect more than 20% of women of reproductive age. They are clinical manifestations of some gynaecological conditions. Endometriosis is one of these conditions that affects 2-17% childbearing women with severe period pain. Few studies have explored the associations between menstrual problems and endometriosis in life course. This project aims to fill this gap by investigating the relationships between menstrual problems and endometriosis over time. |
| Conference Presentations | *The effect of premenstrual syndrome on postpartum depression: A systematic review and meta-analysis*. Cao S. 2018 Clinical and Public Health Postgraduate Symposium, Herston, Qld 22 - 23 November 2018. |
| Project ID: A778 | **Parity and mode of birth and their relationship to general and gynaecological health** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Deborah Davis - University of Canberra
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
* Prof Ellen Aagaard Nohr - University of Southern Denmark
* A/Prof Chunsen Wu - University of Southern Denmark
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | As 32.3% of all deliveries in Australia are caesarean sections, it is important to address the long-term consequences of this procedure. This project will compare self-perceived general health, emotional wellbeing and different gynaecological complications such as irregular periods, severe period pain, heavy periods, urinary incontinence, and surgery for hysterectomy, prolapse of vagina, bladder and bowel in groups of Australian women that have delivered vaginally, by caesarean section or not at all. |
| Project ID: A775 | **Mental and physical health trajectories among women in midlife** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Karin Hammarberg - Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Jane Fisher - School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Prof Flavia Cicuttini - Department of Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine, Monash University
* Prof Martha Hickey - The University of Melbourne
* Dr Thach Tran - School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Hau Nguyen - Monash University
 |
| Liaison person | * A/Prof Leigh Tooth - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Australia’s population is ageing and women over 50 will soon be the largest demographic group. Maintaining and promoting the health of women as they age is vital to the Australian economy and for the maintenance of family and community structures. To inform health policy and health promotion strategies, the aim is to describe the social, situational, financial, physical, and psychological factors that predict physical and mental health and wellbeing in women over age 50 using ALSWH data collected over 20 years from women born between 1946 and 1951 who were aged between 45 and 50 years when they completed the first survey. |
| Project ID: A774A | **The impact of maternal adverse childhood experiences and violence in adulthood on women’s health, parenting, and child outcomes** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Catherine Chojenta - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Nicole Reilly - University of Wollongong
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Isabelle Barnes - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Tahir Ahmen Hassen - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Nick Egan - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Research has shown that intimate partner violence adversely impacts on the physical and mental health of women over the life course and can have deleterious effects on outcomes for children exposed to this violence. Studies have also demonstrated a generational effect on offspring of mothers who experienced adverse childhood experiences (ACES) while growing up. This project will align these fields of research by examining the potential cumulative impact of maternal exposure to adverse childhood experiences and violence across the life course on outcomes for women in the 1973-1978 cohort and their children.  |
| Project ID: A770 | **Markers of cognitive decline in the written language of older Australian women / The terminology of elder abuse among older Australian women, living with and without dementia** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Kim Colyvas - School of Mathematical & Physical Sciences, University of Newcastle
* Dr Elizabeth Spencer - School of Humanities & Social Sciences, The University of Newcastle
* Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Women living with dementia may lose capacity to control life choices: living arrangements, activities, medical treatments, and management of assets. With an increasing focus on abuse of the human rights of older people, suggested protective solutions include documented planning for future decisions. This study examines the written language of older women at various stages of cognitive functioning (no/pre‑decline, early decline, later decline), to identify linguistic markers of cognitive decline. This new knowledge may lead to the development of more sensitive assessment tools and earlier detection of dementia, which will allow for proactive medical intervention as well as protective life planning. A second study will examine the terminology of elder abuse among older Australian women, living with and without dementia. Accurate detection is fundamental to addressing elder abuse. Globally, women have a higher likelihood of experiencing elder abuse than men, and are more likely to report it, but they may not use words like ‘abuse’. Dementia, a risk factor for abuse, may further inhibit women from overtly reporting. This study will qualitatively examine the terminology of abuse among older women, including those living with dementia. Findings will contribute to the evaluation of current methods of elder abuse detection for older women living with and without dementia and inform possible education programs for health professionals and others working with older women. |
| Conference Presentations | *Elder abuse: An exploration of the terminology of abuse among older Australian women from the Australian Longitudinal study on women’s health (ALSWH).* Lithgow S. 17th National Conference of Emerging Researchers in Ageing, Caulfield, VIC, 19 - 20 November 2018.*Markers of cognitive decline in the written language of older Australian women*. Lithgow S. 18th National Conference of Emerging Researchers in Ageing, Sydney, NSW, 4-5 November 2019. |
| Project ID: A768 | **Consultations with naturopaths/herbalists and use of supplements/herbal medicines amongst Australian women, 2006-2016** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr WenBo (Penny) Peng - Faculty of Health, University of Technology Sydney
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Jon Adams - School of Public Health, University of Technology Sydney
* Prof David Sibbritt - Faculty of Health, University of Technology Sydney
* Dr Amie Steel - Health Services Research, University of Technology Sydney
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | The naturopathy and herbalist professions have been going through numerous changes over recent years. In addition, supplements and herbal medicines have doubled over the last 10 years, and women are the top consumers of such products in Australia. It is worth noting that there has been an increased ability of consumers to purchase these products beyond practitioners, such as online shopping, health food stores, and pharmacies. As such, this longitudinal study aims to examine the changes over time in consultations with naturopaths/herbalists and use of vitamin/minerals and herbal medicines amongst Australian women. |
| Project ID: A766 | **Trends and costs of health service resource use related to alcohol use and behavioural risk factors among pregnant women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Alexis Hure - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Penny Reeves - Hunter Medical Research Institute, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Unhealthy behaviours during pregnancy are the risk factors that contribute to the burden of possible adverse events for women and their babies. In order to reduce these possible outcomes from happening a focus should be placed on the dissemination of the factors that contribute to alcohol use for women during pregnancy. Our project will examine the financial burden on the health care system and the health of the mother and baby when exposed to differing levels of alcohol use through pregnancy. |
| Project ID: A760 | **The effects of vigorous intensity exercise during pregnancy and postpartum on maternal and infant outcomes** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Kassia Beetham - Australian Catholic University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Gregore Mielke - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
* Dr Emma Beckman - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Studies, The University of Queensland
* Dr Jemima Spathis - School of Exercise Science, Australian Catholic University
* Dr Samantha Hoffmann - Centre for Sport Research, School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, Deakin University
* Prof Vicki Clifton - Mothers and Babies Theme, Mater Medical Research Institute, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | The role of exercise and patterns of exercise, (particularly vigorous intensity exercise), during pregnancy and postpartum are not well understood. Previous research has indicated the importance of exercise in this population, yet there is little research investigating the relationship between exercise patterns, and maternal and infant outcomes. The aim of this study is to evaluate the rates and intensity of physical activity during pregnancy, and the implications on health and birth outcomes. A secondary outcome is to review the role of exercise participation on breastfeeding duration. |
| Conference Presentations | *Longitudinal association between physical activity in pregnancy with maternal and infant outcomes: Findings from the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women’s Health*. Beetham K, Spathis J, Hoffmann S, Brown W, Clifton V & Mielke G. Queensland Women's Health Forum 2021, Brisbane, QLD, 27-28 May 2021. |
| Project ID: A759 | **Is there an association between hearing loss and dementia?** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Michael Waller - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Andrew Ford - Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, The University of Western Australia
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | This project will investigate in detail the association between hearing loss and dementia in a cohort of Australian Women aged 70-75 in 1996. The primary research question is ‘are women with hearing loss at greater risk of developing dementia?’ We will assess changes in hearing loss in the years prior to a diagnosis of dementia, and study how many women living with dementia have hearing loss recorded as a comorbid condition. |
| Project ID: A757A | **The health system costs of women who experience domestic violence** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Jananie William - School of Finance, Australian National University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Bronwyn Loong - Australian National University
* Dr Dana Hanna - Research School of Economics, Australian National University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Our project investigates the health services used by women who experience domestic violence and the corresponding health system costs of these services. The health system costs refer to government-funded expenditure through Medicare and relate to both in-patient hospital and out-of-hospital care (such as general practitioner visits). We will also consider costs through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. The results will be used to inform health policy and domestic violence services to ultimately better support affected women. |
| Project ID: A755 | **Generational differences in mental, sexual, reproductive, maternal and child health among Australian sexual minority women (lesbian, bisexual, mostly heterosexual)** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Leah East - University of New England
 |
| Other collaborators | * A/Prof Ruth McNair - Dept of General Practice, University of Melbourne
* Prof Jayne Lucke - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Tonda Hughes - College of Nursing, University of Illinois
* A/Prof Bethany Everett - University of Utah
* Dr Cindy Woods - University of New England
* Prof Marie Hutchinson - School of Health and Human Sciences, Southern Cross University
* Dr Helena Menih - University of New England
* Dr Suzie Cosh - University of New England
* Prof Debra Jackson - University of Technology Sydney
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Jayne Lucke - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | This project aims to examine generational differences in mental, sexual, reproductive, maternal and child health between heterosexual and sexual minority women (lesbian, bisexual, mostly heterosexual; SMW). Previous analysis indicates that SMW are more likely than heterosexual women to have poorer mental health, higher substance use, lower satisfaction with healthcare and are at an increased risk of experiencing STIs and unintended pregnancy. Sexual minority status is also associated with preconception risk behaviours that can have a negative impact on maternal, infant and child outcomes. This project will examine if these risk behaviours and health disparities continue to exist and impact on maternal and child health outcomes through comparing differences among three cohorts of women.Analysis is almost complete, once completed manuscripts will be drafted |
| Project ID: A751A | **The association of lifestyle factors with inflammatory conditions in women with and without polycystic ovary syndrome** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Lisa Moran - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Allison Hodge - Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria
* Prof Helena Teede - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Anju Joham - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Prof James Hebert - Cancer Prevention and Control Program, University of South Carolina
* Dr Nitin Shivappa - University of South Carolina
* Dr Jessica Grieger - School of Paediatrics and Reproductive Health, The University of Adelaide
* Dr Cate Bailey - Monash Centre for Health, Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Aya Mousa - Monash University
* Amreen Naqash - University of Kashmir
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Polycystic ovary syndrome is a condition affecting up to 1 in 5 reproductive-aged women associated with reproductive, metabolic and psychological complications. Inflammation is proposed as one of the aetiological factors associated with PCOS and conditions associated with increased inflammation such as asthma and depression are more prevalent in women with PCOS. Different foods are understood to modify inflammation so that better quality diets or diets higher in fruit and vegetables tend to be anti-inflammatory. However, the contribution of dietary quality to conditions associated with inflammation in PCOS is not known. The proposed study will investigate whether dietary quality is associated with type 2 diabetes, depression and asthma in women with and without PCOS. |
| Publications | The association between dietary intake, asthma, and PCOS in women from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health. Grieger JA, Hodge A, Mishra G, Joham AE & Moran LJ. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, 2020, 9(1); E233. |
| Project ID: A780 | **Endometriosis: Prevalence, health outcomes and health service use** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Ingrid Rowlands - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Richard Hockey - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Grant Montgomery - Institute for Molecular Biosciences, The University of Queensland
* Dr Darsy Darssan - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Jason Abbott - University of New South Wales
* Prof Peter Rogers - The University of Melbourne
* A/Prof Tracy Comans - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Based on international data, endometriosis is clinically diagnosed in 10-13% of women. However, there are no current national Australian estimates. This study estimates the prevalence of endometriosis (self-reported and surgically confirmed) in two cohorts of young women and describes women’s long-term health outcomes and health service use. Data from women’s self reported doctor diagnoses of endometriosis from the ALSWH surveys will be combined with surgery data from Medicare Benefits Schedule and the state-based Admitted Patients Data collections to provide national estimates and examine outcomes.  |
| Publications | Prevalence and incidence of endometriosis in Australian women: A data linkage cohort study. Rowlands IJ, Abbott JA, Montgomery GW, Hockey R, Rogers P & Mishra GD. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, 2021, 128(4): 657-665. |
| Project ID: A782 | **Stillbirth: Prevalence, menstrual problems, and future health outcomes** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Vicki Clifton - Mothers and Babies Theme, Mater Medical Research Institute, The University of Queensland
* Prof Vicki Flenady - Mater Research Institute, The University of Queensland
* Alexis Dennehy - The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | In Australia, the rate of stillbirth is 6.7 per 1000 births. This is equivalent to 2,107 stillborn babies each year. Established risk factors include maternal health (hypertension, diabetes), primiparity, pregnancy complications (fetal growth restriction, prolonged pregnancy), smoking, overweight and obesity, and history of stillbirth. It is already known that women who experience pregnancy complications are more likely to report a cardiovascular disease related event, such as angina, heart attack, and arrhythmia, suggesting a link between adverse pregnancy events such as stillbirth and future health (Friebert et al., 2011). Lykke et al. reported that women who experience a pregnancy complication including a stillbirth in their first pregnancy are twice as likely to die prematurely. In a Danish study, women with irregular menstrual cycles had an increased risk of preeclampsia, preterm birth, and prolonged pregnancy. Therefore, the characteristics of the preconception menstrual cycles may be a marker of both pregnancy outcomes and post-pregnancy health. Limited studies are available on the associations between preconception menstrual patterns and stillbirth. Similarly, there is a lack of information on changes in the physical and mental health of women who have had stillbirth, or on their GP use. We hypothesize that menstrual problems might be early indicators of increased risk of stillbirth and poorer health in the future. |
| Project ID: A785 | **Reproductive events and workforce participation across the life course** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Leigh Tooth - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Ingrid Rowlands - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | In Australia, women’s workforce participation is lower than men’s. Despite a narrowing of the gap in recent years, more men than women are in the workforce from age 20 onwards. For example, in 2016-17, 45% of employed women worked part time compared with 16% of employed men. This research aims to examine the role of gender specific health issues affecting women, such as reproductive events including child-birth, adverse pregnancy outcomes (miscarriage, stillbirth, preterm birth, low birth weight), disorders such as polycystic ovary syndrome, endometriosis, or symptoms including severe period pain, heavy menstrual bleeding or irregularity, and menopause (menopausal transitions and symptoms) on workforce participation at different stages of, and over, the life course. |
| Project ID: A809 | **Patterns of contraceptive use among Australian women with mental health conditions** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Natalie Amos - Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Jayne Lucke - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Danielle Mazza - Department of General Practice, Monash University
* Dr Kevin McGeechan - School of Public Health, The University of Sydney
* Prof Jeffrey Peipert - Indiana University
 |
| Liaison person | * Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The project will examine the associations between mental health disorders and patterns of contraceptive and emergency contraceptive use among young women in Australia. Using data from Surveys 1-5 of the 1989-95 cohort we aim to understand patterns of contraceptive use among women with depression or anxiety, specifically the methods of contraceptive chosen, frequency of contraceptive use or non-use, occurrences of emergency contraceptive use and changes in contraceptive use over time. |
| Project ID: A811 | **Reproductive factors and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Jane Fisher - School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Prof Rachel Huxley - Deakin University
* Dr Louise Wilson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Flavia Cicuttini - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Prof Martha Hickey - The University of Melbourne
* Prof Jenny Doust - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Zhiwei Xu - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Reshika Chand - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Mridula Bandyopadhyay - University of Melbourne
* Prof Mohammad Reza Baneshi - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Richard Hockey - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Abdulbasit Seid - The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Current knowledge on links between risk factors and reproductive characteristics and increased risk of non-communicable diseases in women is impeded by the varying quality of existing data and gaps in evidence. This research will investigate associations of established and emerging risk factors at each stage of women’s lives (early life, young adult, main reproductive stage, menopausal transition, and later life) with the incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Progress update: We conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis to assemble available evidence on the impacts of asthma severity, exacerbations and medication use on perinatal outcomes, and found that maternal asthma severity and exacerbations are associated with increased odds of delivering low birth weight and small for gestational age babies. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Impacts of asthma severity, exacerbations and medication use on perinatal outcomes: An updated systematic review and meta-analysis (poster presentation)*. Xu Z, Doust JA, Wilson WF, Dobson AJ, Dharmage S & Mishra GD. Queensland Women's Health Forum 2021, Brisbane, QLD, 27-28 May 2021. |
| Project ID: A793A | **Urinary incontinence in women with and without polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS**) |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Anju Joham - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Helena Teede - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Jillian (Chau Thien) Tay - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Urinary incontinence affects up to one in two postmenopausal women and one in three premenopausal women. It causes great embarrassment and reduces quality of life. Reproductive hormones play a role in urinary continence but the mechanisms are not understood. Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a complex hormonal disorder characterized by reproductive hormones dysregulation and insulin resistance. Women with PCOS are prone to weight gain and diabetes, both of which are important risk factors for urinary incontinence. We intend to study the association of PCOS with urinary incontinence and how urinary incontinence impacts the psychology well-being of women with PCOS. |
| Project ID: A819A | **Lifetime reproduction outcomes in women with polycystic ovary syndrome** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Anju Joham - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Helena Teede - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Jillian (Chau Thien) Tay - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a complex hormonal disorder common affecting one in five women and one in four Australian Indigenous women. It is one of the most common cause of infertility and more than two-thirds of women with PCOS required fertility treatment to conceive. Family planning in women with PCOS are therefore extremely important as the success of fertility treatment are highly dependent on age. We intend to examine throughout the women’s reproductive life, their preconception health and fertility outcomes including the mean age of first delivery, use of fertility treatment, and final family size. |
| Project ID: A839 | **Preconception Period Analysis of Risks and Exposures influencing health and Development (PrePARED) consortium: PrePARED-Australia** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Hsin-Fang Chung - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Jenny Doust - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* A/Prof. Emily W Harville - Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, New Orleans
* Ke Pan - Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, New Orleans
* Prof Shelley Wilkinson - Mater Medical Research Institute, Brisbane
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | The conventional focus of intervening during pregnancy to reduce the risk of adverse health outcomes is ‘too little too late’. More than half of Australian women enter pregnancy overweight or obese. Maternal obesity is associated with increased risk of pregnancy complications (e.g., preeclampsia and gestational diabetes) and adverse birth outcomes (e.g., stillbirth and low birthweight, macrosomia). Antenatal intervention studies on the effect of diet and exercise among obese and overweight women show only modest reductions in gestational weight gain, and no significant reduction in the risk of adverse outcomes. In the 2018 *Lancet* series on preconception health, Stevenson et al. highlighted the critical need to refocus the timing of changes in exposure levels before conception to comprehensively understand the risk of adverse outcomes. PrePARED Australia aims to assemble and analyse data from existing cohort studies and establish the evidence base on the timing of preconception exposures associated with adverse pregnancy, birth, child outcomes and post-pregnancy maternal health. The knowledge gained will inform more effective preconception healthcare strategies |
| Project ID: A845 | **Predictors of infertility and costs of infertility treatments in Australia** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Maarit Laaksonen - Centre for Big Data Research in Health, University of New South Wales
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Jayne Lucke - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Serena Yu - University of Technology Sydney
* Prof Kees Van Gool - Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation, University of Technology Sydney
* Prof Jake Olivier - School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of New South Wales
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Infertility is estimated to affect one in six Australian couples of reproductive age. It can be successfully treated with lifestyle changes and medical interventions. However, the evidence of the effect of some modifiable lifestyle-related and hormonal factors on infertility is inconclusive. There is also lack of knowledge on the expected full cost of medical treatment of infertility in Australia. We aim to improve fertility outcomes and access to care by producing information on modifiable predictors of infertility and costs of infertility treatment among Australian women to allow for more informed individual choice and policy-making. An NHMRC Ideas Grant application has been submitted to support this research. |
| Project ID: A799A | **Pregnancy planning and risk of adverse pregnancy and birth outcomes** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Danielle Schoenaker - University of Southampton
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Amie Steel - Health Services Research, University of Technology Sydney
* Dr Ellie D Arcy - Health Intelligence Unit, NSW Health
* Dr Elizabeth Neale - University of Wollongong
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Preconception care addresses health and lifestyle behaviours of women prior to pregnancy and is increasingly recognised as an essential health service to achieve healthy outcomes for women and their children. While previous studies have shown that better health and lifestyle prior to pregnancy are associated with better health outcomes during and after pregnancy, there remain gaps in our knowledge on the benefits and implementation of preconception care. To better inform the design of future preconception interventions, this study aims to examine the proportion of women planning a pregnancy, their preconception health and lifestyle behaviours, and the relationships of these with subsequent pregnancy and birth outcomes. |
| Conference / Presentations | *How do women with overweight and obesity prepare for pregnancy?* Schoenaker D & Steel A. Event co-hosted by the World Health Organisation and the International Council of Women and the Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations: Advancing Women's Health and Well-Being: Focus on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), UN Headquarters. 12 March 2020. |
| Project ID: A706 | **Impact of a PCOS diagnosis on health-related behaviour, lifestyle choices and psychosocial wellbeing** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Jenny Doust - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Jesse Jansen - School of Public Health, The University of Sydney
* Dr Jolyn Hersch - The University of Sydney
* Prof Kirsten McCaffery - School of Public Health, The University of Sydney
* Dr Kevin McGeechan - School of Public Health, The University of Sydney
* Dr Erin Cvejic - School of Medicine, The University of Sydney
* Prof Ben Mol - Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Monash University
* Prof Anuja Dokras - Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Pennsylvania
* Prof Mohammad Reza Baneshi - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a common endocrine disorder affecting women of reproductive age and is associated with adverse reproductive, metabolic, cardiovascular and psychosocial outcomes. Using data from the 1989-95 cohort, this project focuses on women who report a new diagnosis of PCOS (not reported in survey 1 but in subsequent surveys) and examines whether the diagnosis is associated with changes in BMI, lifestyle (physical activity, diet, smoking, alcohol use, contraceptive use) and psychosocial wellbeing (self-harm, disordered eating, distress). These women will be compared to women without PCOS, and women who initially report a diagnosis of PCOS but do not re-report. |
| Publications | Impact of a diagnosis of polycystic ovary syndrome on diet, physical activity and contraceptive use in young women: Findings from the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women’s Health. Copp T, Cvejic E, McCaffery K, Hersch J, Doust J, Mol BW, Dokras A, Mishra G & Jansen J. *Human Reproduction*, 2020, 35(2); 394-403. |
| Conference / Presentations | *‘I wonder whether it would have been better not to know’ Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and the potential for overdiagnosis.* Copp T. Preventing Overdiagnosis 2019, Sydney, NSW, 5-7 December 2019. |

### Chronic conditions

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| Project ID: A468 | **Population-level relevance of risk factors for cancer** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Maarit Laaksonen - Centre for Big Data Research in Health, University of New South Wales
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Graham Giles - Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria
* A/Prof Claire Vajdic - Centre for Big Data Research in Health, University of New South Wales
* A/Prof Dianna Magliano - Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute
* A/Prof Jonathan Shaw - Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute
* Prof Paul Mitchell - Discipline of Clinical Ophthalmology and Eye Health, University of Sydney
* Prof Karen Canfell - Cancer Research Division, Cancer Council NSW
* Dr Robert MacInnis - Cancer Council Victoria
* Prof Emily Banks - Australian National University
* Prof Robert Cumming - University of Sydney
* Dr Barbara-Ann Adelstein – University of New South Wales
* Dr Maria Arriaga - Centre for Big Data Research in Health, University of New South Wales
* Dr Vasant Hirani - Concordia Health and Ageing in Men Project (CHAMP), The University of Sydney
* Peter Hull - Centre for Big Data Research in Health, University of New South Wales
* Dr Tiffany Gill - Adelaide Medical School, The University of Adelaide
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Cancer prevention guidelines should be informed by population-level relevance of the risk factors. Measures such as the Population Attributable Fraction (PAF), which integrate both the strength of association and the prevalence of the risk factors in the population, can estimate that relevance. In this study, the population-level relevance of lifestyle-related risk factors for cancer in Australia will be studied for the first time by applying our recently published PAF measure and program to data from established large-scale Australian cohort studies, including ALSWH, linked to national cancer and death registries (relative risk estimates) and nationally representative health survey (exposure prevalence estimates). A pooled cohort study based on the individual cohorts will also be conducted, by applying our recently demonstrated meta-analysis techniques for PAF, to further enhance the precision of the estimates and to allow the analysis of less common cancers. Knowledge on national cancer burden is essential for targeting cancer interventions. |
| Publications | Cohort Profile: The burden of cancer attributable to modifiable risk factors - the Australian Cancer-PAF Cohort Consortium. Arriaga ME, Vajdic CM, Canfell K, MacInnis R, Hull P, Magliano DJ, Banks E, Giles GG, Cumming RG, Byles JE, Taylor AW, Shaw JE, Price K, Hirani V, Mitchell P, Adelstein B-A & Laaksonen MA. *BMJ Open*, 2017, 7(6); e016178.The future burden of lung cancer attributable to current modifiable behaviours: A pooled study of seven Australian cohorts. Laaksonen MA, Canfell K, MacInnis R, Arriaga ME, Banks E, Magliano DJ, Giles GG Cumming RG, Byles JE, Mitchell P, Gill TK, Hirani V, McCullough S, Shaw JE, Taylor AW, Adelstein B-A & Vajdic CM. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 2018, 47(6); 1772-1783.The future colorectal cancer burden attributable to modifiable behaviors: A pooled cohort study. Vajdic CM, MacInnis R, Canfell K, Hull P, Arriaga ME, Hirani V, Cumming RG, Mitchell P, Byles JE, Giles GG, Banks E, Taylor AW, Shaw JE, Magliano DJ, Marker J, Adelstein B-A, Gill TK & Laaksonen MA. *JNCI Cancer Spectrum*, 2018, 2(3).The burden of pancreatic cancer in Australia attributable to smoking. Arriaga M, Vajdic CM, MacInnis RJ, Canfell K, Magliano DJ, Shaw JE, Byles JE, Giles FF, Taylor AW, Gill TK, Hirani , Cumming RG, Mitchell P, Banks E, Marker J, Adelstein BA & Laaksonen M. *Medical Journal of Australia*, 2019, 210(5); 213-220.The preventable burden of breast cancers for premenopausal and postmenopausal women in Australia: A pooled study. Arriaga ME, Vajdic CM, Canfell K, MacInnis R, Banks E, Byles JE, Magliano DJ, Taylor AW, Mitchell P, Giles GG, Shaw JE, Gill TK, Klaes E, Velentzis LS, Cumming RG, Hirani V, Laaksonen MA. *International Journal of Cancer*, 2019, 145(9); 2383-2394.The preventable burden of endometrial and ovarian cancers in Australia: A pooled cohort study. Laaksonen MA, Arriaga ME, Canfell K, MacInnis RJ, Byles JE, Banks E, Shaw JE, Mitchell P, Giles GG, Magliano DJ, Gill TK, Klaes E, Velentzis LS, Hirani V, Cumming RG & Vajdic CM. *Gynecological Oncology*, 2019, 153(3); 580-588.The future burden of kidney and bladder cancers preventable by behaviour modification in Australia: A pooled cohort study. Laaksonen MA, MacInnis R, Canfell K, Giles GG, Hull P, Shaw JE, Cumming RG, Gill TK, Banks E, Mitchell P, Byles JE, Magliano DJ, Hirani V, Connah D & Vajdic CM. *International Journal of Cancer*, 2020, 146(3); 874-883.The future burden of head and neck cancers attributable to modifiable behaviours in Australia: A pooled cohort study. Laaksonen MA, Canfell K, MacInnis RJ, Banks E, Byles JE, Giles GG, Magliano DJ, Shaw JE, Hirani V, Gill TK, Mitchell P, Cumming RG, Salagame U, Vajdic CM. *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*, 2021, 30(8): 1566-1574. |
| Conference Presentations | *Population-level relevance of risk factors for cancer in the presence of competing risk of death.* Laaksonen M. Australian Statistical Conference 2014, Sydney, NSW, 7 - 10 July 2014.*Population-level relevance of risk factors for cancer: pooled study of seven Australian cohorts.* Laaksonen M. World Cancer Congress, Melbourne, Victoria, 3 - 6 December.*Burden of lung cancer attributable to lifestyle risk factors: pooled study of seven Australian cohorts*. Laaksonen M et al. Sydney Cancer Conference 2016, Sydney, NSW, 22-23 September 2016.*Population-level relevance of lifestyle-related risk factors for pancreatic cancer.* Arriaga M et al. Sydney Cancer Conference 2016, Sydney, NSW, 22-23 September 2016.*Burden of lung cancer attributable to modifiable lifestyle-related risk factors.* Laaksonen MA, et al. Annual 45 and Up Study Collaborators’ Meeting, Sydney, NSW, 6 September.*Burden of colorectal cancer in Australia attributable to lifestyle-related risk factors*. Laaksonen MA, et al. Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) 43rd Annual Scientific Meeting, Gold Coast, Qld, 15 - 17 November 2016.*Burden of lung cancer in Australia avoidable by modifications to lifestyle-related risk factors.* Laaksonen M, Arriaga M, Hull P, Canfell K, MacInnis R, Banks E, Giles G, Mitchell P, Cumming R et al. American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, USA, 1-5 April 2017.*Burden of colorectal cancer attributable to lifestyle-related risk factors: a pooled study of seven Australian cohorts.* Vajdic CM, Arriaga M, Hull P, Canfell K, MacInnis R, Banks E, Giles G, Mitchell P, Cumming R et al. American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, USA, 1-5 April 2017.*Population-level relevance of lifestyle-related risk factors for pancreatic cancer in Australia.* Arriaga M, Vajdic CM, Hull P, Canfell K, MacInnis R, Banks E, Giles G, Mitchell P, Cumming R et al. American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, USA, 1-5 April 2017.*Premenopausal and postmenopausal breast cancer burden attributable to health behaviours and hormonal factors.* Arriaga M, Vajdic CM, Hull P, Canfell K, MacInnis R, Banks E, Giles G, Mitchell P, Cumming R,et al. Annual Scientific Meeting of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA), Sydney, NSW, 13-15 November 2017.*A large linked study to evaluate the burden of cancer in Australia attributable to current modifiable behaviours.* Laaksonen MA, Arriaga ME, Canfell K, MacInnis R, Hull P, Banks E, Giles G, et al. International Population Data Linkage Conference, Banff, Alberta, Canada, 12-14 September 2018.*Future burden of cancer attributable to current modifiable behaviours: A pooled study of seven Australian cohorts*.Laaksonen MA, Arriaga ME, Canfell K, MacInnis R, Hull P, Banks E, Giles G, Mitchell P, et al. World Cancer Congress, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 1-4 October 2018.*Future burden of cancer attributable to current modifiable behaviours.* Laaksonen MA, Arriaga ME, Canfell K, MacInnis R, Hull P, Banks E, Giles G, Mitchell P, et al. Sydney Cancer Conference, Sydney, NSW, 11-12 October 2018. |
| Project ID: A489A | **The relationship between obesity and back pain** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Flavia Cicuttini - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Helena Teede - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Sanjeeva Ranasinha - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Donna Urquhart - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Dr Yuanyuan Wang - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Dr Monira Hussain - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Dr Baki Billah - School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine, Monash University
* Dr Sharmayne Brady - Monash University
* A/Prof Stephane Heritier - Monash University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | The recent Global Burden of Disease study ranked low back pain second only to cancer as the leading cause of disability in Australasia. Moreover, musculoskeletal disease, of which low back pain is the most prevalent and costly, is the 7th National Health Priority Area in Australia. There is increasing evidence that obesity, which is in epidemic proportions, is a risk factor for low back pain. Understanding the inter-relationships and consequences of both low back pain and obesity is likely to help in improving prevention and management of these conditions. |
| Publications | Predictors of back pain in middle aged women: Data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health. Brady S, Hussain S, Brown W, Heriter S, Wany Y, Teede H, Urquhart D & Cicuttini. *Arthritis Care and Research*, 2017, 69(5); 709-716.Relationships between weight, physical activity, and back Pain in young adult women. Brady SR, Hussain SM, Brown WJ, Heritier S, Billah B, Wang Y, Teede H, Urquhart DM & Cicuttini FM. *Medicine*, 2016, 95(19); e3368.Course and contributors to back pain in middle-aged women over 9 years: Data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health. Brady SRE, Hussain SM, Brown WJ, Heritier S, Wang Y, Teede H, Urquhart DM, Cicuttini FM. *Spine*, 2018, 43(23); 1648-1656. |
| Conference Presentations | *Relationships between weight, physical activity and back pain in young adult women.* Brady S, Hussain S, Brown W, Heritier S, Billah B, Wang Y, Teede H, Urquhart D & Cicuttini F. OARSI 2016 World Congress, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 31 March - 03 April 2016.*Relationships between weight, physical activity and back pain in young adult women.* Brady S, Hussain S, Brown W, Heritier S, Billah B, Wang Y, Teede H, Urquhart D & Cicuttini F. 2015 ACR/ARHP Annual Meeting, San Francisco, USA, 6-11 November 2015.*Predictors of back pain in middle aged women: Data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (poster presentation).* Brady S, Hussain S, Brown W, Heritier S, Billah B, Wang Y, Teede H, Urquhart D & Cicuttini F. OARSI 2016 World Congress, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 31 March - 03 April 2016.*Predictors of back pain in middle aged women: Data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (poster presentation)*. Brady S, Hussain S, Brown W, Heritier S, Wang Y, Teede H, Urquhart D & Cicuttini F. European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) London 2016, London, UK, 8-11 June 2016.*Relationships between weight, physical activity and back pain in young adult women (poster presentation).* Brady S, Hussain S, Brown W, Heritier S, Billah B, Wang Y, Teede H, Urquhart D & Cicuttini F. European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) London 2016, London, UK, 8-11 June 2016.*Relationships between weight, physical activity and back pain in young adult women (poster presentation).* Brady S, Hussain S, Brown W, Heritier S, Billah B, Wang Y, Teede H, Urquhart D & Cicuttini F. Australian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting, Darwin, NT, 30 April - 3 May.*Predictors of back pain in middle aged women: Data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (poster presentation).* Brady S, Hussain S, Brown W, Heritier S, Billah B, Wang Y, Teede H, Urquhart D & Cicuttini F. Australian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting, Darwin, NT, 30 April - 3 May.*The course and contributors to back pain in middle-aged women over nine years: Data from the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women’s Health*. Brady S. 5th World Congress on Controversies, Debates & Consensus in Bone, Muscle & Joint Diseases, Gold Coast, Qld, 31 August-03 September 2017. |
| Project ID: A489D | **The use of narcotics in back pain.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Flavia Cicuttini - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Helena Teede - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Geeske Peeters - Radboud University Medical Centre (UMC)
* Dr Donna Urquhart - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Dr Yuanyuan Wang - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Dr Monira Hussain - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Dr Sharmayne Brady - Monash University
* A/Prof Stephane Heritier - Monash University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | During the last decade between 2001-03 and 2011-13, narcotic use has been doubled in high income countries with Australia being only second to the USA in increased narcotic use. While it is clear there is an urgent need for innovative and cost-effective interventions for low back pain, these are currently limited and there is widespread concern regarding the increasing use of narcotics to manage back pain. This is associated with significant side effects, including deaths. The aim of this study is to examine the use of narcotics in those with back pain, joint pain/stiffness and bodily pain (measured by SF 36) and to explore the determinants of narcotic use including age, weight and psychosocial factors. |
| Conference Presentation | *Demographic, psychosocial factors, musculoskeletal pain and prescription opioid use in community-based middle-aged women: A prospective cohort study (Poster presentation).*Hussain SM, Wang Y, Peeters G, Wluka AE, Mishra GD, Teede H, Urquhart D, Brown WJ, Cicuttini FM. World Congress on Osteoarthritis, 30 April. |
| Project ID: A492B | **The experience of breastfeeding for women with chronic health conditions.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Catherine Chojenta - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Alexis Hure - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Karen Mate - School of Biomedical Sciences and Pharmacy (Human Physiology), The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Characterised by long-term development and persistent symptomatology, chronic conditions impact on healthcare expenditure and burden of disease. Women with chronic conditions may require specialised care and advice during postpartum to ensure optimal health for mother and baby. Existing evidence suggests that women with chronic conditions are less likely to breastfeed, although there is increasing evidence that breastfeeding is generally optimal for women with chronic conditions and their infants. Despite this, there are no specific guidelines to direct clinicians and patients in these situations. The aim of this project is to examine breastfeeding initiation and duration among women with chronic conditions and assess the impact of medication use. |
| Project ID: A640B | **Progression of chronic diseases and conditions in mid-aged women and beyond: the role of reproductive health over the life course and medication use.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Xiaolin Xu - Zhejiang University, China
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Mark Jones - Faculty of Health Sciences & Medicine, Bond University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Multi-morbidity is a growing issue and poses a major challenge to health care systems around the world. A number of gaps in multi‑morbidity research need to be addressed. This study aims to investigate the progression of chronic diseases and conditions in mid‑aged women and beyond from the ALSWH (1946-51) cohort. We aim to identify factors that are associated with disease progression and outcomes. We are particularly interested in how reproductive variables (e.g. age at menarche/menopause and number of children) influence the progression and outcomes as well as medication use and cost in this progression. |
| Publications | Age at natural menopause and development of chronic conditions and multimorbidity: Results from an Australian prospective cohort. Xu X, Jones M & Mishra GD. *Human Reproduction*, 2020, 35(1); 203-211. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Body weight and body weight change and the development of multiple chronic conditions: A 20-year cohort study.* Xu X. 2019 International Forum for Young Scholars in Health Policy and Management, Nanjing, China, 14-16 June 2019.*A dose-response relationship between social relationships satisfaction and accumulation of chronic conditions: A national cohort study.* Xu X. Fourth Westlake Youth Forum, Hangzhou, China, 10-13 June 2019.*Age at natural menopause and development of chronic conditions and multimorbidity: results from an Australian prospective cohort.* Xu X. 2019 Theo Murphy Australian Frontiers of Science-Redefining Healthy Ageing Together (Australian Academy of Science), Adelaide, SA, 8-9 April 2019. |
| Project ID: A679 | **Pattern of medication use in women with dementia** |
| Lead Investigator | * Kailash Thapaliya - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Dementia is one of the biggest global health challenges of the current generation. This challenge is not only due to the nature of the disease but also the complexity of managing medications among the population. The incidence of dementia is increasing exponentially, with a higher prevalence among women. This project investigated: 1. the prevalence of commonly used medications among women with dementia a year before and after a dementia diagnosis;
2. the implementation of medication reviews for Australian women with dementia, focusing on those living in residential aged-care (RAC) and
3. polypharmacy prevalence and polypharmacy trajectories over time among older women with and without dementia.

Survey data from the 1921-1926 birth cohort were linked with government administrative datasets including the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), aged-care datasets, state-based hospital datasets and the National Death Index (NDI). Advanced analytical techniques, such as Latent Class Analysis (LCA), Generalised Estimating Equation (GEE), logistic regressions and Group-Based Trajectory Modelling (GBTM) were used to investigate the aims of the thesis. Findings from the studies revealed that considerable proportions of women utilised psychotropic medications both before and after a dementia diagnosis. Among women with dementia, the use of psychotropic medications was higher for those with frailty and those living in RAC. The annual medication review was more common for women with dementia in general, and among those living in RAC in particular, when compared to women without dementia and those not living in RAC; however, the incidence of medication review was modest, indicating limited uptake of medication review services funded under the MBS. The findings also showed that more than 50% of women in the cohort were experiencing polypharmacy consistently for a long time. Women with dementia and comorbidities and those living in RAC demonstrated a higher likelihood of experiencing polypharmacy. Non-pharmacological alternative approaches must be effectively implemented to lower the use of psychotropic and polypharmacy among the older population. It is also crucial to increase medication review services, especially among the vulnerable older population to ensure optimal use of medication and reduced drug-related problems. |
| Publications | Use of medication reviews among older women with dementia, 2003-2015: A longitudinal cohort study. Thapaliya K, Harris ML & Byles JB. *Australasian Journal on Ageing*, 2020, 39(4); e552-e558.Medications use among women with dementia: A cohort study. Thapaliya K, Harris ML, Forder PM & Byles JE. *Aging Clinical and Experimental Research*, 2021. |
| Conference Presentations | *Pattern of medication use in women with dementia*. Thapaliya K, Harris LM & Byles J. 16th National Conference of Emerging Researchers in Ageing (ERA 2017), Perth, WA, 6-7 November 2017.*Antipsychotics use status among women with dementia in Australia. Poster presentation.* Thapaliya K. 51st AAG Conference, Melbourne, Vic, 21 - 23 November 2018.*Prevalence of drugs use before and after dementia diagnosis*.Thapaliya K, Byles JE, Harris M. 52nd AAG Conference, Sydney, NSW, 5-8 November 2019. |
| Project ID: A685 | **Using epidemiological evidence to aid tailored joint decision making in areas of clinical uncertainty in the management of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) in later life** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Shazia Abbas - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Tazeen Majeed - School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Newcastle
* Dr Natasha Weaver - School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The project aims to develop a decision making tool to quantitatively assess the probabilities of all outcomes associated with atrial fibrillation; integrating patient profile and patient preferences for each outcome to help clinicians and patients make informed decisions in choosing the anticoagulant regimens/treatment to balance the risk of stroke, bleeding and death in patients with atrial fibrillation. |
| Publications | Utility estimations of health states of older Australian women with atrial fibrillation using SF-6D. Abbas SS, Majeed T, Weaver N, Nair BR, Forder PM, Byles JE. *Quality of Life Research*, 2020, 30((5)); 1457-1466.Patterns of medications for atrial fibrillation among older women: Results from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health. Abbas SS, Majeed T, Nair BR, Forder P, Weaver N & Byles J. *Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacology and Therapeutic*, 2020, 26(1); 59-66.Burden of atrial fibrillation and stroke risk among octagenarian and nonagenarian women in Australia. Abbas SS, Majeed T, Nair K, Forder P, Weaver N & Byles J. *Annals of Epidemiology*, 2020, 44; 31-37.e2. |
| Conference Presentations | *Using epidemiological evidence to aid tailored joint decision making in areas of clinical uncertainty in the management of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) in later life*. Abbas S. 16th National Conference of Emerging Researchers in Ageing (ERA 2017), Perth, WA, 6-7 November 2017.*Use of medications for Atrial Fibrillation among Australian women.* Abbbas SS. 51st Australian Association of Gerontology Conference, Melbourne, Vic, 21 - 23 November 2018.*Matters of the Heart - Medications for Atrial Fibrillation*. Abbas SS. The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) 6th Annual Newcastle Satellite Scientific Meeting, Newcastle, NSW, 3 June 2017. |
| Project ID: A816 | **Menopausal hormone therapy use and the risk of melanoma** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Edoardo Botteri - Cancer Registry Norway
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Zhiwei Xu - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Nathalie C Stoer - Cancer Registry of Norway
* Dr Elisabete Weiderpass - International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | The association between use of menopausal hormone therapy and risk of cutaneous melanoma is highly debated. We previously investigated the association in different European cohorts, showing a detrimental effect of estrogens on melanoma risk. Moreover, our findings suggest a possible protective effect of progestins. We would like to evaluate this association in the ALSWH. The present study will focus on the 1946-1951 cohort, because in that cohort we have the information on HRT use from both the questionnaires and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Information on hysterectomy and menopausal status will be used, together with other possible confounders.Results from this analysis are under evaluation for publication in *International Journal of Cancer*. |
| Project ID: A817 | **Osteoporosis in Australian women: Exploring differences related to age at menopause and location** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Amanda Vincent - Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Allison Hodge - Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria
* Prof Helena Teede - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Alicia Jones - School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine, Monash University
* Prof Peter Ebeling - School of Clinical Sciences, Monash University
* Dr Joanne Enticott - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Osteoporosis is a significant health concern, leading to fractures, loss of mobility and independence. Over 60% of women over the age of 50 have reduced bone density. Younger women with early menopause, breast cancer or other risk factors may also have reduced bone density. Evidence shows higher rates of hip fractures in rural areas of Australia, and lower osteoporosis knowledge among women with early menopause in rural areas. This study aims to assess differences between investigation and treatment of osteoporosis (i) early menopause compared to women with expected age menopause and (ii) rural compared to metropolitan areas of Australia.  |
| Project ID: A835 | **Are calcium channel blockers associated with breast cancer? Assessing the impact of long-term use in large longitudinal cohorts** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Rachael Moorin - Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute, Curtin University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Sallie-Anne Pearson - University of New South Wales
* Prof Chris Reid - Curtin University
* Prof Christobel Saunders - The University of Western Australia
* Prof Walter Abhayaratna - Canberra Health Services
* Prof David Preen - University of Western Australia
* Prof Bruno Stricker - Erasmus University, The Netherlands
* Prof Jeff Hughes - Curtin University
* Prof Max Bulsara - University of Notre Dame
* Cameron Wright - Curtin University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Breast cancer is the commonest cancer in women. Calcium channel blockers (CCBs) are frequently used worldwide to treat high blood pressure. A link between use of CCBs and breast cancer has been proposed with mixed findings in North American, European and Asian women. No data exist for Australian women. Since 1 in 8 Australian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer by age 85 years, it is important to determine whether this risk is increased by the use of CCBs. |
| Project ID: A838 | **Rheumatoid arthritis in Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Ranjeny Thomas - The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Lyn March - Institute of Bone and Joint Research, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney
* A/Prof Tracy Comans - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Ahmed Mehdi - The University of Queensland
* Dr Louise Koller-Smith, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | The inflammatory autoimmune disease, rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is currently incurable and affects 23 million people worldwide. An effective intervention would minimise the need for ongoing treatment beyond the first transient symptoms in people at risk, preventing their progress to full-blown disease. To do this, we need to estimate the size of the at-risk population and the RA risk profile in Australia. Currently all estimates are self-reported, which over-estimates verified RA. This project will estimate the prevalence, incidence and risk factors for RA in Australian women in the ALSWH. |
| Conference Presentations | *Estimating the true prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis in Australian women (poster presentation)*. Koller-Smith L, Mehdi A, March L, Mishra G, Tooth L & Thomas R. Queensland Women's Health Forum 2021, Brisbane, QLD, 27-28 May 2021. |
| Project ID: A758A | **Carbohydrate restriction and risk of type 2 diabetes in reproductive-aged women with and without a history of gestational diabetes** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Danielle Schoenaker - University of Southampton
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Ellie D Arcy - Health Intelligence Unit, NSW Health Allison Hodge - Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria
* Dr Elizabeth Neale - University of Wollongong
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Women diagnosed with gestational diabetes are at increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes immediately after pregnancy. In the general population, type 2 diabetes risk can be influenced by dietary intake. Among women with and without a history of gestational diabetes who participated in the 1946-51 cohort, we found that women who restricted their intake of carbohydrates the most, were at higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes during mid-life. As a follow-up of this study, the current project aims to examine if a diet low in carbohydrates is associated with development of type 2 diabetes in women in the 1973-78 cohort with and without a history of gestational diabetes, to confirm if our previous findings can be extrapolated to development of type 2 diabetes during the reproductive years. |
| Project ID: A856 | **The association between types of meat consumption and the risk of type 2 diabetes: A federated meta-analysis in the InterConnect project** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Hsin-Fang Chung - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Nita Forouhi - MRC Epidemiology Unit, Cambridge University
* Prof Nick Wareham - MRC Epidemiology Unit, Cambridge University
* Tom Bishop - MRC Epidemiology Unit, Cambridge University
* Chunxiao Li - MRC Epidemiology Unit, Cambridge University
* Dr Fumiaki Imamura - MRC Epidemiology Unit, Cambridge University
* Stephen Sharp - MRC Epidemiology Unit, Cambridge University
* Dr Soumya Banerjee - MRC Epidemiology Unit, Cambridge University
* Dr Matthew Pearce - MRC Epidemiology Unit, Cambridge University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | The habitual consumption of red and processed meat may elevate the risk of type 2 diabetes (T2D). However, research evidence to‑date has been highly heterogenous, reflecting a variation in dietary habits related to meat consumption and T2D risk. Existing evidence is predominantly from North America and Europe, with little information from Australia, or other areas. Moreover, evidence for poultry intake remains sparse. To better understand the potential link between meat consumption and T2D by geographical regions, the participation of ALSWH study in InterConnect, an international collaboration, will be important. A unique feature of the InterConnect project is that a federated meta-analysis approach is employed so all data will stay at source and the analysis will come to the data. We are aiming to recruit 30 studies worldwide in this meta-analysis project. ALSWH data have been delivered to collaborators in the UK and are currently undergoing harmonisation and data analysis. Then, the results will be pooled with the results of other studies. Due to the long process of data harmonisation across studies, we have extended the completion date from December 2021 to June 2022. |
| Project ID: A414B | **InterLACE: International collaboration for a life course approach to reproductive health and chronic disease events** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Debra Anderson - Faculty of Health, University of Technology Sydney
* Dr Hsin-Fang Chung - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Zhiwei Xu - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | InterLACE provides a unique opportunity to conduct world-leading research in collaboration with key national and international investigators on women’s health studies from 11 nations. We will undertake cross‑cohort research by combining data at the individual level from more than 800 000 participants in 26 existing longitudinal studies (including ALSWH young & mid-age cohorts) to investigate the role of reproductive health across life on subsequent chronic diseases, especially CVD events and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM). While this poses cross-cohort and cross-cultural research challenges, InterLACE has the capability to address research questions and generate robust evidence that is not possible from any single cohort study. |
| Publications | The association between reproductive lifespan and incident cardiovascular disease: A pooled analysis of individual patient data from 12 studies. Mishra SR, Chung H-F, Waller M, Dobson J, Greenwood DC, Cade JE, Giles GG, Bruinsma F, Simonsen MK, Hardy R, Kuh D, Gold EB, Crawford SL, Derby CA, Matthews KA, Demakakos P, Lee JS, Mizunuma H, Hayashi K, Sievert LL, Brown DE, Sven Sandin S, Weiderpass E, Mishra GD. *JAMA Cardiology*, 2020, 5(12); 1410-1418.Vasomotor menopausal symptoms and risk of cardiovascular disease: A pooled analysis of six prospective studies. Zhu D, Chung H-F, Dobson AJ, Pandeya N, Anderson DJ, Kuh D, Hardy R, Brunner EJ, Avis NE, Gold EB, Crawford SL & Mishra GD. *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 2020, 223(6); 898.e1 - 898.e16.Type of menopause, age of menopause and variations in the risk of incident cardiovascular disease: Pooled analysis of individual data from 10 international studies. Zhu D, Chung H-F, Dobson AJ, Pandeya N, Brunner EJ, Kuh D, Greenwood DC, Hardy R, Cade JE, Giles GG, Bruinsma F, Demakakos P, Simonsen MK, Sandin S, Weiderpass E & Mishra GD. *Human Reproduction*, 2020, 35(8); 1933-1943.Age at menarche and risk of vasomotor menopausal symptoms: a pooled analysis of six studies. Chung HF, Zhu D, Dobson AJ, Kuh D, Gold EB, Crawford SL, Avis NE, Mitchell ES, Woods NF, Anderson DJ & Mishra GD. *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology*, 2021, 128(3); 603-13. |
| Conference Presentations | *Early menstruation and risk of vasomotor symptoms: a pooled analysis of six studies (poster presentation)*. Chung H-F & Mishra G. Queensland Women's Health Forum 2021, 27-28 May 2021. |

### Health service use and systems

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| Project ID: A360A | **Predictors of mental health services utilisation and costs for Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
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| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Catherine D Este - National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH), Australian National University
* Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The aim of this research is to investigate the impact and utilisation of the ‘Better Access Scheme’ on health services among Australian women with mental health conditions. The research will provide in‑depth analysis on the differing social, economic and health characteristics for women with mental health conditions who do and do not use the ‘Better Access Scheme’ and identify inequalities and possible inequities on health service use/costs and morbidity. |
| Publications | Mental health service use: Is there a difference between rural and Non-rural women in service uptake?. Dolja-Gore X, Loxton D, D'Este C & Byles J. *The Australian Journal of Rural Health*, 2014, 22(3); 92-100. |
| Conference Presentations | *How effective are Australian mental health counselling for women with poor mental health?* Dolja-Gore X. International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research, Montreal, Canada, 31 May - 4 June 2014.*Are younger Australian women with poor mental health receiving counselling services and how effective are they?*Dolja-Gore X, Loxton D, D’Este C & Byles J. Population Health Congress 2015, Hobart, Tas, 6 - 9 September 2015.*How effective are Australian mental health counselling services for women with poor mental health?*Dolja-Gore X, Loxton D, D'Este C & Byles J. National Centre for Longitudinal Data: Longitudinal Data Conference 2016, Canberra, ACT, 25 - 27 October 2016. |
| Project ID: A444A | **Hospital use of women 85+** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Catherine Chojenta - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Andrew Searles - School of Medicine and Public Health- University of Newcastle
* Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Hal Kendig - Centre for Research on Ageing, Health & Wellbeing, Australian National University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | More women than ever are living past the age of 85 in Australia, but little is known about the nature of their hospital service use, hospital experience and hospital outcomes. Increasing age alone is a risk factor for hospitalisation and less optimal outcomes, but other factors such as demographics and comorbidities also contribute to these experiences. As the aging population places increased demand on health services and resources, the importance of understanding the details of their hospital use is paramount. This project will investigate reasons for hospital admission and how age, demographics and comorbidities may influence the risks of hospitalisation, hospital use and hospital outcomes among older women. |
| Publications | Rehabilitation and convalescent hospital stay in New South Wales: An analysis of 3,979 women aged 75+. Chojenta C, Byles J & Nair BK. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 2018, 42(2); 195-199.First incident hospitalisation for Australian women aged 70 and beyond: A 10 year examination using competing risks. Harris ML, Dolja-Gore X, Kendig H & Byles JE. *Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics*, 2016, 64; 29-37.End of life hospitalisations differ for older Australian women according to death trajectory: A longitudinal data linkage study. Harris ML, Dolja-Gore X, Kendig H, Byles JE. *BMC Health Services*, 2016, 16(484); 1-12.Patterns of hospitalization risk for women surviving into very old age: Findings from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health. Dolja-Gore X, Harris M, Kendig H & Byles JE. *Medical Care*, 2017, 55(4); 352-361. |
| Conference Presentations | *Determinants of overnight hospital admissions for Australians aged 85+ in their last year of life.* Dolja-Gore X, Harris ML, Kendig H & Byles J. 12th Annual 45 and Up Study Collaborators’ Meeting, Sydney, NSW, 12 November.*Balancing health care use over later life: A longitudinal study of ageing, health and health service use by 12432 Australian women over 19 years.* Byles J. 10th IAGG (International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics) Asia/Oceania 2015, Chiang Mai, Thailand 19 - 22 October 2015. |
| Project ID: A489B | **The use of radiology in back pain.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Flavia Cicuttini - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Helena Teede - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Geeske Peeters - Radboud University Medical Centre (UMC)
* Dr Donna Urquhart - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Dr Yuanyuan Wang - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Dr Monira Hussain - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Dr Sharmayne Brady - Monash University
* A/Prof Stephane Heritier - Monash University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | While it is clear there is an urgent need for innovative and cost‑effective interventions for low back pain, these are currently limited and there is widespread concern that radiological investigations are being used excessively with associated high costs. The musculoskeletal bone and joint group of the NHMRC Translation Faculty have identified this as an important area to investigate. The aim of this study is to examine the use of radiological investigation in those with back pain and to explore the determinants of imaging use including age, weight and psychosocial factors. |
| Publications | Rates, costs and determinants of lumbar spine imaging in population-based women born in 1973-1978: Data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health. Wang Y, Hussain SM, Wluka AE, Lim YZ, Urquhart DM, Mishra GD, Teede H, Doust J, Brown WJ & Cicuttini FM. *PLOS ONE*, 2020. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Rates, costs and determinants of lumbar spine imaging in population-based women born in 1973-1978: a prospective cohort study (Poster presentation)*. Wang Y, Hussain SM, Wluka AE, Lim YZ, Urquhart DM, Mishra GD, Teede H, Doust J, Brown WJ, Cicuttini FM. World Congress on Osteoarthritis, Vienna, Austria, 30 April. |
| Project ID: A537 | **The prevalence and characteristics of consultation with a massage therapist among young and middle aged women.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof David Sibbritt - Faculty of Health, University of Technology Sydney
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Jon Adams - School of Public Health, University of Technology Sydney
* Prof David Sibbritt - Faculty of Health, University of Technology Sydney
* Dr Meredith Tavener - School of Medicine and Public Health, Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Jayne Lucke - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Massage is a popular form of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM). It has become increasingly popular among women and used for a variety of physical and psychological conditions (Adams et al. 2011; Cambron et al. 2007; Listing et al. 2009; Meurk et al. 2013). However, there has been no critical analysis on the prevalence of massage use or the characteristics of massage users as a single treatment modality for women in Australia. The proposed study will determine the prevalence of young and mid aged women, and analyse the use of massage in relation to demographic data, physical and mental health status and health services factors among this population. |
| Publications | Healthcare practitioner utilisation for back pain, neck pain and/or pelvic pain during pregnancy: An analysis of 1,835 pregnant women in Australia. Sibbritt D, Ladanyi S & Adams J. *International Journal of Clinical Practice*, 2016, 70(10); 825-831. |
| Project ID: A594A | **The impact of general practice continuity of care on health service utilisation and costs.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Michael Wright - Health Economics Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation, University Technology Sydney
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Jane Hall - Centre for Health Economic Research and Evaluation, University Technology Sydney
* Prof Kees Van Gool - Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation, University Technology Sydney
* Dr Serena Yu - University Technology Sydney
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | This research investigates the relationship between general practice attendance patterns and health outcomes in order to provide evidence about the best way to deliver general practice services to get the best health outcomes. The initial focus of this research will be the association between continuity of care and recommended investigations (such as cancer screening, pathology and radiology testing), use of GP services, prescribing and secondary care utilisation (such as hospital admission and emergency department attendances). |
| Project ID A574A | **Finding a life without domestic violence: Analysis of free-text responses from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health surveys.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Lyn Francis - Western Sydney University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Virginia Stulz - School of Nursing and Midwifery, Western Sydney University
* Muluken Dessalegn Muluneh - Western Sydney University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Qualitative thematic data analysis will comprise of free text responses to the open-ended question, ‘Have we missed anything?’ included in the ALSWH surveys. Responses that indicate experiences of abuse in relationships and women’s decision making regarding staying or leaving abusive relationships will be examined. The researcher will identify if the issue of social support (formal and/or informal) is raised by participants in relation to abuse or violence and what helped or hindered disclosure of abuse and/or help seeking in the context of abuse and leaving or ending such relationships.Quantitative data collected from the surveys will ensure diversity in the sample and consider whether women identified domestic violence within their relationships.We are still finalising analysis of free text data up to 2020 for the 4 cohorts with the aim of submitting a publication in January 2022. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Finding a life without domestic violence: A mixed methods study.* Francis L & Stulz V. 4th Australian Nursing and Midwifery Conference, Newcastle, NSW, 2 - 3 May 2019. |
| Project ID: A671 | **When the clock is ticking: Impact of the extended Medicare safety net on the uptake of Assisted Reproductive Technology** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Megan Gu - Macquarie University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Kees Van Gool - Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation, University Technology Sydney
* A/Prof (Jenny) Chun Yee Wong - International University of Japan
 |
| Liaison person | * Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This project investigates the trends in Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) services usage with the introduction of Extended Medicare Safety Net in 2004 which provided greater subsidy for ART services and the subsequent implementation of caps in 2010 which reduced the subsidy. It also examines the determinants for women's decision to use ART services including sociodemographic characteristics. We utilise a unique resource by linking the survey data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health with national administrative health datasets, Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule (PBS) and then deploying hurdle models to examine the incidence and frequency of ART use among women. The study will shed light on the effect of government policies on ART services in terms of utilisation and will also examine the determinants driving the decision to undertake these services. |
| Project ID: A676 | **Use of GP other Medicare and hospital services by people with dementia** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Danielle Mazza - Department of General Practice, Monash University
* Prof Robert Sanson-Fisher - Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI), The University of Newcastle
* Prof. Colette Browning - Primary and Allied Health Care, Monash University
* Sally O Loughlin - Uniting
* Dr Jamie Bryant - School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The General Practitioner (GP) is the cornerstone of medical care for people with dementia and central to much of the care for people with dementia. They usually know the person with dementia well, having cared for them for many years, and are often the first clinician to become aware of the person’s concerns about cognitive decline. Subsequent to diagnosis, the ongoing care and medical management of dementia is also principally coordinated and monitored by the GP, in partnership with the person and their family, and with specialist consultation. This study will assist in identifying use of GP consultations and other services eligible for Medicare rebates by women with dementia, and examine use these services, and health outcomes for women with dementia. |
| Publications | Use of medical services by older Australian women with dementia: a longitudinal cohort study. Byles J, Cavenagh D, Bryant J, Mazza D, Browning C, O'Loughlin S & Sanson-Fisher R. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 2021. |
| Project ID: A677 | **Health care utilisation and health economics of diabetes among Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Befikadu Wubishet - Faculty of Health and Medicine, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Carol Jagger - Institute of Ageing and Health, Newcastle University
* Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Mijanur Rahman - University of Wollongong
* Dr Shamasunder Acharya - General Medicine / Endocrinology, John Hunter Hospital
* Danielle Lang - School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Diabetes is one of the primary chronic conditions contributing to morbidity, mortality and economic burden in Australia. More accurate information on health care utilization patterns and associated costs in the whole spectrum of the diabetic population as well as specific groups such as patients at their end of life is important for future planning of healthcare services, particularly as diabetes incidence continues to rise. In addition, information on clinical practice-based cost effectiveness of antidiabetic medications aids decision-making and resource use optimization for diabetes patients. The project, primarily, aims to assess health care utilization of women with and without diabetes and the incremental costs incurred by the government and patients (out-of-pocket) due to diabetes and its complications. ALSWH self-reported data will be linked to administrative databases (Medicare Benefits Scheme, Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule, hospital data and national death index). |
| Publications | Predictors of 15-year survival among Australian women with diabetes from age 76-81. Wubishet BL, Harris ML, Forder PM, Acharya SH & Byles JE. *Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice*, 2019, 150; 48-56.Impact of diabetes on life and healthy life expectancy among older women. Wubishet BL, Byles JE, Harris ML & Jagger C. *The Journals of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*, 2021, 76(5); 914-921.Age and cohort rise in diabetes prevalence among older Australian women: Case ascertainment using survey and healthcare administrative data. Wubishet BL, Harris ML, Forder PM & Byles JE. *PLOS One*, 2020, 15(6); e0234812. |
| Conference Presentations | *Rising diabetes prevalence among older Australian women*. Wubishet B, Harris M, Lang D, Acharya S, & Byles J. 51st Australian Association of Gerontology Conference, Melbourne, Vic, 21 - 23 November 2018. *Rising diabetes prevalence among older Australian women.* Wubishet B, Harris M, Lang D, Acharya S, & Byles J. Emerging Health Policy Research Conference, Menzies Centre for Health Policy, Sydney, NSW, 26 July 2018.*Costs of major complications of type 2 diabetes: A systematic review.* Wubishet B L, Harris M, Abbas SS, Lang D, Acharya S, & Byles J. 16th National Conference of Emerging Researchers in Ageing (ERA 2017), Perth, WA, 6-7 November 2017.*End of life health care costs among older Australian women with diabetes*. Wubishet B, Harris M, Lang D, Acharya S, & Byles J. Annual Colloquium at Digital Health, Health Informatics and E-Health Conference, Sydney, NSW, July 2018.*Impact of diabetes on life and healthy life expectancy among older women*. Wubishet BL, Byles JE, Harris ML & Jagger C. 18th National Conference of Emerging Researchers in Ageing, Sydney, NSW, 4-5 November 2019. |
| Project ID: A723 | **Are older women prescribed Amiodarone receiving recommended thyroid function tests?** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Catherine Chojenta - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Kichu Nair - School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Emily Princehorn - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Daniel Ryan - The University of Newcastle
* Samin Uddin - The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Amiodarone is one of the most popular antiarrhythmic drugs prescribed in Australia. It is commonly used to treat atrial fibrillation, ventricular tachycardia and prescribed to patients at high risk of cardiac death. Amiodarone however has a number of adverse effects and is therefore only prescribed when necessary. Due to its structural similarities with thyroxine, it is recommended that thyroid function tests be conducted every six months to check for thyroid dysfunction. These guidelines however are not well adhered to by health professionals. Therefore this project will examine the risk factors for non adherence to thyroid function testing in older Australian women prescribed Amiodarone.  |
| Project ID: A739 | **Examining the use of infertility treatment services in women who self-report PCOS** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Renae Fernandez - University of Adelaide
 |
| Other collaborators | * A/Prof Lisa Moran - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Anju Joham - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Jacqueline Boyle - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* A/Prof Alice Rumbold - South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute Women and Kids
* Prof Vivienne Moore - School of Public Health, The University of Adelaide
* A/Prof Michael Stark - Paediatrics and Reproductive Health, The University of Adelaide
* Prof Michael Davies - Robinson Research Institute, The University of Adelaide
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This project will use data from medical insurance claims to quantify the extent of use of fertility services among women who self-report PCOS. This will provide a much more complete picture of the current reproductive health and economic burden of PCOS among Australian women. This will inform women’s expectations about their future reproductive health needs after diagnosis and identify gaps in current management practices. |
| Project ID: A742 | **Examining the use of chronic disease management plans and allied health services in women who self-report PCOS** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Renae Fernandez - University of Adelaide
 |
| Other collaborators | * A/Prof Lisa Moran - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Anju Joham - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Jacqueline Boyle - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* A/Prof Alice Rumbold - South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute Women and Kids
* Prof Vivienne Moore - School of Public Health, The University of Adelaide
* Prof Michael Davies - Robinson Research Institute, The University of Adelaide
* Anthea Hutchison - Robinson Research Institute, The University of Adelaide
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This project will use data from medical insurance claims to quantify the extent of use of medical and allied health services for lifestyle and mental health complications among women who self-report PCOS. This will provide a much more complete picture of the current health and economic burden of PCOS among Australian women. If the use of chronic disease management plans and government subsidised allied health services is found to be low among women with PCOS, this would provide robust evidence to support more targeted awareness campaigns for health care providers regarding the need for multidisciplinary care of this condition.This project is in the final stages of data analysis and we hope to produce at least one publication by the end of 2021. |
| Project ID: A798 | **HPV vaccinations and adherence to screening** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Alexis Hure - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Penny Reeves - Hunter Medical Research Institute, The Univesity of Newcastle
* A/Prof Julila Brotherton - VCS Population Health
* Prof David Durrheim - The University of Newcastle
* Joseph Welsh - The University of Newcastle
* Callum Sinclair - The University of Newcastle
* Karina Ly - The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Free HPV vaccinations were introduced for Australian females aged 12-26 years in 2007 with free school-based vaccination of 12-13 year old girls ongoing and vaccination of boys introduced in 2013. This government initiative has dramatically decreased the prevalence of HPV in younger men and women. However, screening remains important to prevent cervical cancer effectively amongst both vaccinated and unvaccinated women. We aim to determine factors that are associated with women not participating in cervical screening and assess the relationship between HPV vaccination and screening behaviour. |
| Project ID: A800A | **Women’s health services use across life** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Louise Wilson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Jenny Doust - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Zhiwei Xu - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Evidence that is more detailed is needed regarding the pattern of women’s health service use across life, and how these patterns may vary by sociodemographic and behavioural factors and reproductive events. This research will conduct a comprehensive assessment of Australian women’s use of health services across life stages and identify key factors influencing distinct patterns of health service use. |
| Publications | Did changes to recommended testing criteria affect the rate of vitamin D testing among Australian women. Wilson LF, Xu Z, Mishra GD, Dobson AJ & Doust J. *Archives of Osteoporosis*, 2020, 15(1); 162. |
| Project ID: A812 | **Women’s health services use before and after diagnosis of a non-communicable disease (NCD)** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Louise Wilson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Jenny Doust - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Zhiwei Xu - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Danusha Jayawardana - University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Evidence that is more detailed is needed regarding the pattern of women’s health service use across life, in particular the impact of a diagnosis of one or more non-communicable diseases (NCDs). This research will examine patterns of health service use before and after diagnosis of an NCD at different life stages, including the impact of subsequent additional NCDs and multi-morbidity.  |
| Project ID: A840 | **Tracking the short-term impacts of COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Amy Anderson - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Natalie Townsend - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Isabelle Barnes - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Emma Byrnes - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Katherine Tuckerman - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Nick Egan - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The impact of COVID-19 on the individual and how this will evolve over time is largely unknown, while the long-term impact of COVID-19 and resultant life changes are also uncharted territory. ALSWH responded by offering an ongoing brief COVID-19 survey to women in the three youngest cohorts, deployed fortnightly over a six-month period during 2020, with follow-up surveys planned for 2021. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain who had experienced COVID-19, who had been tested for COVID-19 (or not), their general health and stress levels, and the impact of COVID-19 on women's lives. This project combines the COVID‑19 survey data with main survey data to evaluate the impacts of COVID-19 on health and wellbeing (such as physical health, mental health, health service use, etc), while accounting for factors such as SES, residential area, history of trauma, etc that also influence health and wellbeing. |
| Project ID: A840A | **Women’s experience of health care access during COVID-19** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Jennifer White - University of Newcastle
* Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The widespread outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a challenge for public health and medical care service provision. As a result, countries have had to make tough decisions in order to safeguard their people. These decisions include lockdowns and restrictions on people’s movement and engagement with society, and limited access to health care. Such restrictions have had an impact on use of health care including assessment and diagnosis, follow-up and monitoring, and prescription refills since access to health facilities and their attending physicians and other health professionals may have been restricted or denied. In response to the restructuring of hospital and community services to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, anecdotal reports suggest that the management of complex conditions has been negatively affected. The purpose of this mixed methods study is to further understand women’s experience of health service access during the COVID pandemic. |
| Publications | The experience of delayed health care access during the COVID 19 pandemic in Australian women: A mixed methods exploration. White J, Cavenagh D, Byles J, Mishra G, Tooth L & Loxton D. *Health & Social Care in the Community*, 2021; 1-12. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Delayed health care access during the COVID19: A mixed methods exploration.* White J, Cavenagh D, Loxton D & Byles J. Australasian COVID-19 Virtual Conference, (Virtual) 8-10 December 2020. |
| Project ID: A841 | **Econometric modelling and resources use implications of NCDs for women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Brenda Gannon - Centre for Business and Economics of Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Jenny Doust - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Danusha Jayawardana - University of Queensland
* Aarushi Dhingra - The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Given that there is limited evidence on the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among women in Australia, the aim of this project is two‑fold. First, this project will apply econometric models to evaluate the current burden of NCDs, in terms of health care services and resource costs. Second, simulation and forecasting models will be used to quantify the future costs of NCDs, while accounting for the prevalence of risk factors. Currently there are two papers in preparation. A paper titled ‘Excess healthcare costs of depressive symptoms in late adolescent women: Evidence from linked national Medicare claims data’ is now under review at *Health Economics*. |
| Conference Presentations | *An economic framework for exploring the impact of non-communicable diseases on healthcare utilisation.* Jayawardana D. International Health Economics Association (IHEA) World Congress, (Virtual) July 2021.*Excess healthcare costs of depressive symptoms in late adolescence: Evidence from national Medicare claims data*. Jayawardana D. Queensland Women's Health Forum 2021, Brisbane, QLD, 27-28 May 2021.*Excess healthcare costs of depressive symptoms in late adolescence: Evidence from national Medicare claims data*. Jayawardana D. Econometric Society Australasian Meeting (ESAM), (Virtual) July 2021. |
| Project ID: A849 | **Three essays in Health Economics: IVF policy change implications** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Brenda Gannon - Centre for Business and Economics of Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Luke Connelly - The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | This research will use a microeconomics health production model and econometric models, to assess the economic impact of a policy change in the reimbursement for medical care in Australia and the resulting impact on the use of health services for women who received reproductive treatments such as In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF). This project will also study the mortality and morbidity rates differentials among IVF-born and conventionally born children.   |
| Conference / Presentations | *Measuring Inequity in Less Utilised Health Services.* Dhingra A. 2021 International Health Economics Association World Congress, (Virtual) July 2021.*Measuring Inequity in Less Utilised Health Services*. Dhingra A. 10th Australian Health Economics Society Doctoral (AHED) workshop. 20 September 2021. |
| Project ID: A850 | **Understanding health care use by Australian women after stroke: Change in health status and service access** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Jennifer White - University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Stroke is a major health care issue in Australia, with over 60,000 new cases of stroke each year. Designated hospital-based stroke units and rehabilitation services have also proven integral to improved stroke survival. Despite this many stroke survivors are discharged directly home from the hospital where they often realize the extent of their disabilities, often not identified during their hospitalization. Furthermore, they are at risk for complications such as falls, physical de-conditioning, aspiration pneumonia, infections, social isolation and depression as well as recurrent stroke. Concern stems from evidence that many stroke survivors do not access essential rehabilitation services.The purpose of this study is to investigate the prospective experience of stroke in women participating in the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (ALSWH). Specifically, we will focus on characterising access to health service use. |
| Project ID: A1216 | **Changes in use of Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) subsidised services during the COVID-19 pandemic** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Jennifer White - University of Newcastle
* Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The COVID-19 pandemic led to the introduction of several new Telehealth items to the MBS to facilitate safe contact between health practitioners and patients. These items do not cover all services, as many services require face to face contact. This project will compare use of GP, Specialist, Allied Health, Midwife, Mental Health and Telehealth services through the MBS before and during the COVID-19 pandemic to examine the change in service use during the pandemic.  |
| Project ID: A1229 | **Use of assisted reproductive technology (ART) by women with endometriosis** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Katrina Moss - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Jenny Doust - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Richard Hockey - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Ingrid Rowlands - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Assisted reproductive technology (ART) includes intrauterine insemination (IUI) and in vitro fertilisation (IVF). It is the primary treatment option for women with endometriosis who experience infertility. However, information on differences in the use of ART by women with and without endometriosis is scarce. This research will address this gap.  |

### Weight, nutrition and physical activity

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| Project ID: A038B | **Relationship between Body Mass Index, diet quality, physical activity and health service utilisation; An updated analysis** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Clare Collins - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Amanda Patterson - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Alexis Hure - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Tracy Burrows - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Rebecca Haslam - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Jennifer Baldwin - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Lee Ashton - Priority Research Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This project is about evaluating whether healthy eating is associated with reduced health care costs. So far we have shown consuming a greater variety of vegetables to be predictive of lower 10-year cumulative Medicare Charges, Benefit, Gap and fewer Claims. We wish to check whether this relationship is strengthening over time, or not and to describe the relationship for those who improve their diet quality (or worsen) over time. This research may help to identify appropriate dietary targets associated with reduced health care costs. Further evaluations in other studies are needed so that modelling of potential future cost savings can be conducted. The results will inform a policy brief related to diet quality and healthcare costs over time.A manuscript is under review at *Nutrients*, which if accepted will conclude this stage of our project. We are planning to submit a further EOI to analyse the latest round of Medicare data to investigate the relationship between diet quality and healthcare costs over 20 years in the mid-age cohort of the ALSWH. |
| Publications | Change in diet quality over 12 years in the 1946-1951 cohort of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health. Baldwin JN, Forder PM, Haslam RL, Hure AJ, Loxton DJ, Patterson AJ & Collins CE. *Nutrients*, 2020, 12(1); 147.Lower vegetable variety and worsening diet quality over time are associated with higher 15-year healthcare claims costs among Australian women. Baldwin J, Forder P, Haslam R, Hure A, Loxton D, Patterson A & Collins C. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, 2021, 121(4); 655-668. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Change in diet quality and 15-year healthcare costs in the mid-age cohort of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health.* Baldwin JN, Forder P, Haslam R, Hure A, Loxton DJ, Patterson AJ & Collins CE. 2020 International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA), Advancing Behavior Change Science, Auckland, New Zealand (online), 17 - 20 June 2020.*Diet quality and 15-year healthcare costs: Results from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Womens Health.* Baldwin JN, Forder P, Haslam R, Hure A, Loxton DJ, Patterson AJ & Collens CE. Dietitians Australia 2020 Conference, Online 24-26 August 2020. |
| Project ID: A335A | **Rates of weight gain in young adult women: Who is most at risk?** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Gregore Mielke - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
* Thanya Flores - Federal University of Pelotas
* Dr Shelley Keating - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | After two decades’ work on obesity prevention, it is important to know whether programs have been effective, by examining the current weight problems of young Australian women. This paper aims to compare the differences in annual rate of weight gain of two cohorts of women aged 18-23 in 1996 and 2012/13. It also aims to examine the differences in sociodemographic and health determinants of high weight gain in the two cohorts, to understand whether the determinants have remained consistent from 1996 to 2012/13. |
| Publications | Trajectories and determinants of weight gain in two cohorts of young adult women born 16 years apart. Brown WJ, Flores T, Keating S & Mielke GI. *International Journal of Obesity*, 2021, 45; 1553-1564. |
| Conference / Presentations | *What’s happening to young women’s weight? Data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (ALSWH)*.Brown WJ, Flores TR, Keating SE & Mielke G. Queensland Women's Health Forum 2021, Brisbane, QLD, 27-28 May 2021. |
| Project ID: A425A | **Longitudinal changes in maternal diet** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Ellie D Arcy - Health Intelligence Unit, NSW Health
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Clare Collins - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Allison Hodge - Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria
* Dr Alexis Hure - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Lucy Leigh - Hunter Medical Research Institute
* Dr Christopher Oldmeadow - Clinical Research Design, Information Technology and Statistical Support (CReDITSS) Unit, Hunter Medical Research Institute
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This project seeks to evaluate dietary changes that occur longitudinally in women. The project uses self-reported dietary data from ALSWH’s 1973-78 cohort, over two mailed surveys in 2003 and 2009. Women will be classified as preconception, pregnant or not pregnant at each time point, and their diets compared to observe the changes that occur as a woman ages or becomes pregnant. Overall, this project will examine the trends in dietary intake during childbearing years.  |
| Conference / Presentations | *The longitudinal association between diet and pregnancy status among Australian women of reproductive age*. Gresham E. 10th Asia Pacific Conference on Clinical Nutrition, Adelaide, SA, 26-29 November 2017. |
| Project ID: A397 | **Differential contribution of fruit and vegetable intake to general health in the ALSWH** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Seema Mihrshahi - School of Public Health, The University of Sydney
 |
| Other collaborators | * Putu Novi Arfirsta Dharmayani - Macquarie University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | It is well known that increased consumption of sugar is one of the major contributing factors for the obesity epidemic. Recent research has controversially suggested that high fructose consumption may lead to increased lipogenesis and adiposity. Fruit and vegetable intakes are rarely evaluated separately when measuring associations with health status and the purpose of this analysis is to evaluate the differential effects of fruit and vegetables (separately) in relation to depressive symptoms. |
| Publications | Fruit and vegetable consumption and prevalence and incidence of depressive symptoms in mid-age women: Results from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health. Mihrshahi S, Dobson A & Mishra G. *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 2015, 69(5); 585-591. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Fruit consumption is associated with a lower risk of depression in mid age women.* Mihrshahi S. 20th International Congress of Nutrition, Granada, Spain, 15 - 20 September 2013.*Are depressive symptoms associated with low fruit and vegetable intake in Australian women?* Mihrshahi S. AEA Annual Scientific Meeting 2013: Life Course Approach to Health and Wellbeing, Brisbane, Qld, 20 - 22 October.*Association between fruit and vegetable intake and depressive symptoms over 15 years in young women*. Dharmayani PNA World Congress of Epidemiology, Dharmayani PNA 3-6 September 2021. |
| Project ID: A641A | **Dietary inorganic nitrite/nitrite intake in a representative sample of Australian women, and cardiovascular disease risk.** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Mark McEvoy - La Trobe Rural Health School, La Trobe University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Amanda Patterson - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Lesley MacDonald-Wicks - Nutrition & Dietetics, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Carl Holder - Clinical Research Design & Statistics, Hunter Medical Research Institute
* Dr Christopher Oldmeadow - Clinical Research Design, Information Technology and Statistical Support (CReDITSS) Unit, Hunter Medical Research Institute
* Jacklyn Jackson - School of Health Sciences, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Natalie Ward - Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, The University of Western Australia
* Dr Catherine Bondonno - Edith Cowan University
* Prof Jonathan Hodgson - Edith Cowan University
* Lauren Blekkenhorst - Edith Cowan University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Nitric Oxide (NO) is an important signalling molecule in the cardiovascular system and is vital for vascular function. Further, conditions of NO deficiency due to aging, diabetes and smoking are associated with the development of hypertension and atherosclerosis. Vegetables (especially beetroot and leafy greens) provide the richest dietary source of inorganic nitrate. Dietary nitrate can be utilized via the Nitrate-Nitrite-NO pathway to produce NO, indicating a relatively simple and cost-effective method for restoring NO status. We have completed data analysis and we are currently writing the manuscript. |
| Publications | Dietary nitrate and diet quality: An examination of changing dietary intakes within a representative sample of Australian women. Jackson J, Patterson AJ, MacDonald-Wicks LK, Bondonno CP, Blekkenhorst LC, Ward NC, Hodgson JM, Byles JE & McEvoy MA. *Nutrients*, 2018, 10(8); 1005.Vegetable nitrate intakes are associated with reduced self-reported cardiovascular-related complications within a representative sample of middle-aged Australian women, prospectively followed up for 15 years. Jackson JK, Patterson AJ, MacDonald-Wicks LK, Forder PM, Blekkenhorst LC, Bondonno CP, Hodgson JM, Ward NC, Holder C, Oldmeadow C, Byles JE & McEvoy MA. *Nutrients*, 2019, 11(2); 240.Better diet quality scores are associated with a lower risk of hypertension and non-fatal CVD in middle-aged Australian women over 15 years of follow-up. Jackson JK, MacDonald-Wicks LK, McEvoy MA, Forder PM, Holder C, Oldmeadow C, Byles JE & Patterson AJ. *Public Health Nutrition*, 2020, 23(5); 882-893. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Dietary nitrate intakes within a representative sample of Australian women.* J Jackson et al. Dietitians Association of Australia 35th National Conference, Sydney, NSW, 17-19 May 2018.*Diet quality changes over 12-years of follow-up in a representative sample of Australian mid-aged women.* J Jackson et al. Nutrition Society of Australia, 42nd Annual Scientific Meeting, Canberra, ACT, 27 - 30 November 2018.*Is dietary nitrate associated with a lower risk of CVD related complications among middle aged Australia women.* J Jackson et al. Nutrition Society of Australia, 42nd Annual Scientific Meeting, Canberra, ACT, 27 - 30 November 2018. |
| Project ID: A646 | **Longitudinal analyses of yoga use and health status among Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Romy Lauche - Australian Research Centre in Complementary and Integrative Medicine, University of Technology Sydney
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof David Sibbritt - Faculty of Health, University of Technology Sydney
* Dr Holger Cramer - Department of Internal and Integrative Medicine, University of Duisburg-Essen
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | This project examines the prevalence of yoga use over time, continuity of yoga use and predictors for (dis-)continuation. This project also examines the longitudinal associations of yoga/meditation with health status or well-being among participants with diagnosed mental health or physical conditions such as anxiety, depression, hypertension, arthritis or back pain. |
| Project ID: A666 | **The association between diet quality and work transitions in reproductive aged women.** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Lisa Moran - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
* Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Helena Teede - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Cheryce Harrison - Monash University
* Dr Anju Joham - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Sanjeeva Ranasinha - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Siew Lim - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation (MCHRI), Monash University
* Maureen Makama - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation (MCHRI), Monash University
* Julie Martin - Research Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Prof Helen Skouteris - Health and Social Care Unit, Monash University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Young women are increasingly challenged with balancing their family and work-life. The association between diet quality and women's work transitions before and after the birth of their child is poorly understood. This study will investigate diet quality as measured by the Dietary Guideline Index (DGI) using dietary data from the food frequency questionnaires completed by postpartum women who had given birth from the Young (1973-78) cohort at survey 5. Specifically, we will investigate the association between diet quality and paid and unpaid maternity leave arrangements, duration of maternity leave, and working arrangements (full time, part time, casual) after childbirth. |
| Publications | Postpartum diet quality: A cross-sectional analysis from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health. Martin JC, Joham AE, Mishra GD, Hodge AM, Moran LJ & Harrison CL. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, 2020, 9(2); 446. |
| Project ID: A689 | **Supplement intake for women of reproductive age (preconception or pregnant) from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Ellie D Arcy - Health Intelligence Unit, NSW Health
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Alexis Hure - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Lucy Leigh - Hunter Medical Research Institute
* Dr Christopher Oldmeadow - Clinical Research Design, Information Technology and Statistical Support (CReDITSS) Unit, Hunter Medical Research Institute
* Prof Anthony Perkins - Griffith University
* Elle McKenna - Griffith University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | During pregnancy, there is an increased requirement for specific micronutrients to support foetal growth and development as well as maternal metabolism. Suboptimal nutrition during this time, may lead to impaired foetal growth and an increased risk of adverse outcomes. The proposed project seeks to evaluate and explore the trends in nutrient supplement intake in women of reproductive age, across their childbearing years and assess the benefits and harms on pregnancy and birth outcomes. The project will use self-reported medication data from the 1973-78 ALSWH cohort, reported over three surveys in 2009 (Survey 5), 2012 (Survey 6) and 2015 (Survey 7). Women will be classified as preconception, pregnant or not pregnant at each time point. |
| Publications | Dietary supplement use during preconception: The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health. McKenna E, Hure J, Perkins A, Gresham E. *Nutrients*, 2017, 9(10); E1119. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Dietary supplement use during preconception and pregnancy: the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health*. McKenna E. 10th Asia Pacific Conference on Clinical Nutrition, Adelaide, SA, 26-29 November 2017. |
| Project ID: A709 | **Does diet quality predict Body Mass Index (BMI) and weight gain in women of reproductive age?** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Ellie D Arcy - Health Intelligence Unit, NSW Health
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Clare Collins - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Allison Hodge - Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria
* Dr Alexis Hure - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Lucy Leigh - Hunter Medical Research Institute
* Dr Christopher Oldmeadow - Clinical Research Design, Information Technology and Statistical Support (CReDITSS) Unit, Hunter Medical Research Institute
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | The proposed project seeks to evaluate dietary changes that occur longitudinally in women as a predictor of BMI and weight gain. The project will use self-reported dietary data from ALSWH’s young cohort (1973-78), over two mailed surveys in 2003 and 2009. Women will be classified according to BMI (underweight, healthy, overweight, and obese) at each time point and their diets compared to observe the changes that occur overtime.  |
| Project ID: A718 | **How are different patterns of physical activity, sleep and diet related to health status and do these relationships differ by socio-demographics?** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Mitch Duncan - School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * A/Prof Liz Holliday - Clinical Research Design, Information Technology and Statistical Support (CReDITSS) Unit, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Stina Oftedal - The University of Newcastle
* Prof Matthew Buman - Arizona State University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Physical activity, sleep and dietary behaviours are related to various health outcomes including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and quality of life. Little is known however about the combined patterns of these behaviours, how the patterns differ between different population groups or influence risk of ill health. This study will identify the different patterns of these behaviours in middle aged women, examine how these behaviours change over time and how the patterns influence risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, poor quality of life and all-cause mortality. The study will also examine if the relationship between behaviour patterns and health outcomes differ across family structure (married, caring responsibilities) occupation (e.g., shift work, employment level, ASCO category), education, socio-economic status (e.g., income, financial stress), and residential location (e.g., metropolitan, regional, remote). Findings will help to better understand how these complex behaviours influence health and enable health promotion efforts to be directed to those in greatest need.  |
| Publications | Joint association of physical activity and sleep difficulties with the incidence of hypertension in mid-age Australian women. Duncan MJ, Holliday EG, Oftedal S, Buman M & Brown WJ. *Maturitas*, 2021, 149; 1-7. |

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| Project ID: A738 | **Sleep disturbances in women with and without polycystic ovary syndrome and their association with lifestyle factors (diet, physical activity and sitting time)** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Lisa Moran - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Allison Hodge - Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria
* Prof Helena Teede - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Michelle Blumfield - Faculty of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences, Monash University
* Dr Anju Joham - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Sanjeeva Ranasinha - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Sean Cain - Monash University
* Dr Christie Bennett - School of Clinical Sciences, Monash University
* Dr Darren Mansfield - Monash Health
* Dr Lin Mo - Monash Health
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a condition affecting up to 1 in 5 reproductive-aged women associated with reproductive, metabolic and psychological complications. There is emerging evidence that women with PCOS may experience sleep disturbances. However, this is generally studied with regards to clinical conditions such as obstructive sleep apnoea and there is limited research examining more subtle sleep disturbances in women with and without PCOS. There is also emerging evidence that sleep disturbances can affect lifestyle factors such as diet and physical activity which could have adverse impacts on obesity and related conditions. However, the relationship between PCOS, sleep and lifestyle factors is unknown. |
| Publications | Sleep disturbances in women with and without polycystic ovary syndrome in an Australian national cohort. Mo L, Mansfield DR, Joham AE, Cain SW, Bennett C, Blumfield M, Teede HJ & Moran LJ. *Clinical Endocrinology*, 2019, 90(4); 570-578.Sleep disturbances may influence lifestyle behaviours in women with self-reported polycystic ovary syndrome. Bennett CJ, Mansfield DR, Mo L, Joham AE, Cain SW, Blumfield ML, Hodge A & Moran LJ. *British Journal of Nutrition*, 2021, 28; 1-25. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Sleep disturbances in women with and without polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and their association with lifestyle factors (diet, physical activity and sitting time)*. Bennett C, Mansfield DR, Mo L, Hodge A, Joham A, Cain SW, Blumfield M, Teede H & Moran LJ. Nutrition Society of Australia 43rd Annual Scientific Meeting, Newcastle, NSW, 3 December 2019. |
| Project ID: A843 | **Plant-based dietary patterns and chronic disease risk in Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Jessica Ferguson - The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Manohar Garg - School of Biomedical Sciences & Pharmacy, University of Newcastle
* Dr Christopher Oldmeadow - Clinical Research Design, Information Technology and Statistical Support (CReDITSS) Unit, Hunter Medical Research Institute
* Dr Lucy Leigh - Hunter Medical Research Institute
* Dr Melinda Hutchesson - The University of Newcastle
* Courtney Baleato - School of Health Sciences, University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Plant-based diet (PBD) patterns are gaining societal traction globally, due to ethical and sustainability concern and perceived healthfulness. Recent studies have shown lower risk of chronic diseases in individuals following PBD patterns such as vegetarian or vegan as well as improved management of cardiometabolic risk factors. Since it has been reported that women are more likely to follow PBDs than men, this project will investigate the dietary profile and nutritional adequacy of PBDs followed by Australian women including associated health concerns, overall health status and chronic disease risk from a representative sample of middle-aged Australian women. A manuscript titled 'Plant-based dietary patterns are associated with lower body weight, BMI and waist circumference in older Australian women' is currently under review by a peer-reviewed journal. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Plant-based dietary patterns are associated with lower body weight, BMI and waist circumference in older Australian women.* Ferguson JA, Oldmeadow C, Mishra G & Garg ML. UON - Sustainable Food Future Conference 2021, Newcastle, NSW, 17-18 June 2021. |
| Project ID: A844 | **Understanding the Australian ‘Weekend Warrior’ physical activity pattern and its health consequences in Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Gregore Mielke - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland.
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Shelley Keating - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
* Ruth Brady - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | The role of physical activity (PA) in the prevention and management of non-communicable diseases is well established. However, it remains unclear whether different patterns of duration, frequency and intensity of activity are critical for the prevention of different conditions. The aim of this project is to understand the ‘weekend warrior’ physical activity pattern and its health consequences in Australian women. This study will improve knowledge and understanding of the optimal patterns of PA for improved health in women. The findings of this study can be used to inform the development of strategies for increasing PA among women and thereby help to prevent inactivity-related chronic health problems. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Associations of physical activity frequency and intensity with incidence of hypertension and obesity over 15 years in Australian women*. Mielke G, Lamerton T, Keating S, Nunes B, Brady R & Brown W. Women's Health Forum 2021, Brisbane, QLD, 27-28 May 2021. |
| Project ID: A505B | **Dietary iron and haem iron intakes among women of reproductive age from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Alexis Hure - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Amanda Patterson - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Ellie D Arcy - Health Intelligence Unit, NSW Health
* A/Prof Liz Holliday - Clinical Research Design, Information Technology and Statistical Support (CReDITSS) Unit, The University of Newcastle
* Simon Chiu - Hunter Medical Research Institute
* Prof Anthony Perkins - Griffith University
* Elle McKenna - Griffith University
* Shanna Fealy - School of Nursing, Midwifery, and Indigenous Health, Charles Sturt University
* Dr Lucy Leigh - Hunter Medical Research Institute
* Joshua Dizon - CReDITSS, Hunter Medical Research Institute
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Iron is an essential transitional metal and micronutrient; however, deficient and excess levels are associated with adverse outcomes. During pregnancy iron deficiency is associated with preterm birth and low birth weight and elevated iron stores with increased risk of gestational diabetes and preeclampsia. This record-linkage study uses a longitudinal survey to assess low and high levels of dietary iron and haem iron intakes and risk of adverse pregnancy and birth outcomes. We will examine dietary intakes from the 1973-78 ALSWH cohort in 2003 and 2009 and obstetric data from the ALSWH surveys and linked Perinatal Data Collection and Admitted Patients Data Collection in NSW, QLD, WA and ACT. |
| Project ID: A859 | **Socio-demographic and health factors associated with adherence to Australian Dietary guidelines in women aged 68-73 years** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Mohammad Reza Baneshi - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Gilly Hendrie - CSIRO Nutrition and Health Program
* Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Previous research conducted among Australian women indicates that the level of adherence to the Australian Dietary Guidelines (ADG) is low. For example, among women aged 50-55 years, the adherence to dietary recommendations was 48% for fruit, but for vegetables was just 1.8%. The aims of this research are to:* determine the prevalence of Australian women aged 68-73 who met ADG 2013 by socio- demographic, body weight, health behaviors
* examine the associations between, general health, the presence of chronic conditions (self-report doctor diagnosed   diabetes, depression), and the adherence to ADG2013
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### Mental health

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| Project ID: A429 | **Disordered eating in adolescence and young adulthood and its consequences for BMI trajectory in midlife** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Ilona Koupil - Stockholm University & Karolinska Institute
* Prof Mohammad Reza Baneshi - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* A/Prof Leigh Tooth - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * A/Prof Leigh Tooth - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Disordered eating (binge eating) and dieting is common among young women. It has been shown that clinically diagnosed eating disorders often have very serious health complications but it is not known what the long term consequences of the more prevalent, milder forms of disordered eating are. We will study how disordered eating in childhood, adolescence and young adult age is related to women’s later body size, underweight, overweight, obesity and body satisfaction. |
| Project ID: A617 | **The impact of poor mental health on health and health service use outcomes for older women with multimorbidity.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof John Attia - School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Christopher Oldmeadow - Clinical Research Design, Information Technology and Statistical Support (CReDITSS) Unit, Hunter Medical Research Institute
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This project will examine the role of poor mental health in health, and healthcare outcomes for older women with multimorbidity. In particular, the paper will examine whether poor mental health contributes to poorer physical health outcomes for these women. The project will link data from a range of administrative sources (e.g., the Admitted Patient Data Collection, Medicare Benefits Scheme, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, and National Death) to self-reported survey data for the 1921‑1926 and 1946-1951 cohorts. |
| Project ID: A692A | **Mental health and bone quality in Australian women.** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Mark McEvoy - La Trobe Rural Health School, La Trobe University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Tazeen Majeed - School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Newcastle
* A/Prof Liz Holliday - Clinical Research Design, Information Technology and Statistical Support (CReDITSS) Unit, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Abhijit Chowdhury - Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The project will explore the impact of depression and/or anxiety on new-onset osteoporosis and low-trauma fractures among older and mid-aged Australian women over 20 years. Epidemiological studies showed a higher risk of osteoporosis and low-trauma fractures in people with depression and/or anxiety than people without depression and/or anxiety. But the causal and temporal associations between these factors are yet to be established. Alongside the ALSWH 1921-26 and 1946-51 birth cohorts' survey data, this project will use linked data for a better understanding of these relationships. |
| Project ID: A694 | **Brain-gut vs gut-brain: Longitudinal patterns of gastrointestinal and mental health disorders** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Alissa Beath - Macquarie University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Natasha Koloski - Office PVC - Health, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Nicholas Talley - Faculty of Health, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Mike Jones - Psychology Department, Macquarie University
* Dr Anastasia Ejova - School of Psychology, The University of Adelaide
* Prof Marjorie Walker - Hunter Medical Research Institute, The University of Newcastle
* Lana Mawass - Macquarie University
* Alol Elba - Macquarie University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Functional gastrointestinal disorders (FGIDs, e.g., irritable bowel syndrome) are often comorbid with mood disorders, although we do not fully understand why. Some existing research has investigated which type of diagnosis (FGID vs psychological) most commonly comes first, though these have been limited in time frame or patient samples only and have only been able to evaluate a limited number of moderators of the order of incidence. Using the nationally-representative ALSWH sample, we hope to identify whether mood disorders precede FGID diagnosis more often than FGID diagnosis precede mood disorders, and what psychological or social factors predict the order in which diagnosis of an FGID and a mood disorder occurs.  |
| Project ID: A695 | **A longitudinal investigation of the somatisation construct in a nationally representative sample of younger women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Anastasia Ejova - School of Psychology, The University of Adelaide
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Natasha Koloski - Office PVC: Health, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Nicholas Talley - Faculty of Health, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Mike Jones - Psychology Department, Macquarie University
* Dr Alissa Beath - Macquarie University
* Prof Marjorie Walker - Hunter Medical Research Institute, The University of Newcastle
* Mallory Devlin - Macquarie University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Somatisation is classically thought of as the physical expression of psychological distress, yet it is typically measured without reference to distress. Instead, it is measured in terms of whether one is ‘bothered’ ‘a lot’ as opposed to ‘a little’ or ‘not at all’ by each of a set of somatic symptoms (stomach pain, back pain, chest pain, etc.) In assessing somatic-symptom severity on a similar scale at each time point, while also assessing a host of psychological and health indicators, the ALSWH enables the investigation of whether, over time, psychosocial factors do predict somatic-symptom severity over and above health‑related factors (e.g., whether one suffers from a serious health condition).  |
| Conference / Presentations | *Strong evidence somatization measures based on symptom checklists are more reflective of psychological rather than physical health: Important consequences for gastroenterology research and practice (poster)*. Jones MP. United European Gastroenterology Week Conference, Vienna, Austria, 21 October 2018. |
| Project ID: A832 | **The projected impact of pre-existing mental illness on perinatal mental health, pregnancy and birth among young Australian women (born 1989-95)** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Catherine Chojenta - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Marie-Paule Austin - Perinatal and Women's Mental Health, University of New South Wales
* Dr Nicole Reilly - University of Wollongong
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Natalie Townsend - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Katrina Moss - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Nick Egan - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Previous mental health is a strong predictor of perinatal mental health, such that women with poor mental health before they are pregnant are much more likely to experience mental health issues during and after pregnancy. Analysis of ALSWH data has previously shown the robust link between past mental health and antenatal and postnatal mental health problems among women born 1973-78. A very high proportion of the ALSWH cohort born 1989-95 have reported psychological distress and diagnosed mental health disorders, much higher than the number of women reporting these issues in the cohort born 1973-78. As the 1989-95 cohort enter the childbearing years, it is important to understand the scope of mental health issues that might be experienced by women in this age group, given the high proportion who have a history of mental health problems. |
| Project ID: A722A | **Prevention and early intervention for maternal mental illness: A research program that will inform policy and clinical practice** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Nicole Reilly - University of Wollongong
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Nick Egan - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | In Australia, local, state and national initiatives for maternal mental health, such as the NSW Safe Start initiative and National Perinatal Depression Initiative, have focused on prevention and early intervention for nearly two decades. The aims of this research are to:1. examine changes in mental health service use and psychological wellbeing among women who gave birth in Australia over the previous 20 years
2. evaluate the impact of key perinatal-specific mental health initiatives on these outcomes
3. examine adherence to best practice guidance for the prevention and management of maternal mental health, and to identify barriers and facilitators to adherence
 |
| Project ID: A842 | **Mental health and type 2 diabetes: Associations with conventional and complementary medicine health service utilisation in young and mid-aged women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Tracey Oorschot - University Technology Sydney
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Jon Adams - School of Public Health, University of Technology Sydney
* Prof David Sibbritt - Faculty of Health, University of Technology Sydney
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Approximately 6% of Australian adults report a diabetes condition with up to 90% of cases representing Type 2 Diabetes (T2DM). True prevalence is estimated to be much higher (10%) and is increasing. The first step in treatment includes engaging with recommended health care professionals (HCP) and adoption of a range of healthy lifestyle behaviours, which largely falls to the individual to self‑manage. T2DM is also associated with an increased risk of anxiety, depression or psychological distress, with women most at risk, which can have a detrimental effect on optimal self-management and a range of health outcomes. Whilst past research has explored mental health and T2DM, less is known about associations between mental health status and conventional or complementary medicine self-management practices. Data analyses have been completed, a manuscript prepared and presently seeking publication. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Women with diabetes and co-morbid depression or anxiety are using health services differently*. Oorschot T. Australian Diabetes Congress, (Virtual) 11-13 August 2021. |
| Project ID: A851 | **The mental health of young Australian women: A comparison of two national cohorts surveyed 17-21 years apart** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Nicole Reilly - University of Wollongong
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Marie-Paule Austin - Perinatal and Women's Mental Health, University of New South Wales
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Nick Egan - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Previous ALSWH research has demonstrated poorer physical health outcomes, and higher levels of stress, for women born 1989-95 compared to women born 1973-78. This project will extend this earlier work by comparing the self-reported mental health of the 1989-95 and 1973-78 ALSWH cohorts, who were surveyed 17-21 years apart, when both groups were aged 18-27 years. We will identify whether sociodemographic factors, health behaviours or other factors explain any mental health differences identified between the cohorts over time. We will also examine which risk and protective factors are the most salient in terms of mental health outcomes for young women, and whether these have also changed over time. |
| Project ID: A852 | **Mental health of single mothers in Australia** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Tania Dey - South Australia Centre for Economic Studies, University of Adelaide
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Andreas Cebulla - Australian Industrial Transformation Institute, Flinders University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The study investigates mental health and stress levels among sole mothers and how this compares to other mothers, as well as examining the mental health of sole mothers over time. First, we will update the research on ‘The psychological health of sole mothers in Australia’ published by Loxton et al (2006)1. That study used the 1973-78 and 1946-51 cohorts to examine sole mothers’ psychological health. We will update that study using the 1973-78 and 1989-95 cohorts of women of approximate similar ages as in the original study by Loxton et al., examining psychological health amongst sole mothers about one generation later. More specifically, we will examine the association between mental health and stress levels (measures in relation to money, work and children); ability to manage on available income; possession of a health care card; prevalence of illicit drug taking, smoking and alcohol use; parental leave arrangements; childcare use; childcare cost; leave arrangement post birth; time spent in work and leisure activities; and support received by single mothers. Second, this study will exploit the longitudinal nature of the data to study sole parents’ experiences over time, that is, their (approximately 20 year) life cycle. Where possible, we hope to map these against policy changes. 1 Loxton D, Mooney R & Young AF. (2006). The psychological health of sole mothers in Australia. *The Medical journal of Australia,* 184: 265-268. |
| Project ID: A1215 | **A life-course approach to infertility and mental health** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Tazeen Majeed - School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dinberu Shebeshi - The University of Newcastle
* Prof Elizabeth Sullivan - The University of Newcastle
* Dr Tanmay Bagade - The University of Newcastle
* Dr Erica Breuer - The University of Newcastle
* Kailash Thapaliya - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Infertility is a major problem affecting millions of people globally. It is estimated that in Australia, 1 in 6 couples are unable to conceive. This can cause a number of short term and long-term health problems, with mental health issues having the potential to impact women over their life course. Using the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (ALSWH), this study will establish how infertility and related socioeconomic and other associated factors can impact the mental health of women, which may have the potential to affect the women over their life course. |
| Project ID: A1226 | **Australian women’s mental health and wellbeing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Natalie Townsend - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Nick Egan - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Amy Anderson - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Emma Byrnes - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Isabelle Barnes - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Katherine Tuckerman - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The COVID-19 pandemic has had a noticeable impact on mental health and mental health services, with uptake showing an increase of 14.5% from 2019 to 2020. Crisis line contacts were also 15% higher during 2020, compared to 2019[1](https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/mental-health-services/mental-health-services-in-australia/report-contents/mental-health-impact-of-covid-19). The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health reported high levels of general stress and psychological distress among women in their twenties and forties during 2020[2](https://alswh.org.au/outcomes/reports/covid-19-survey-reports/). The purpose of the current research is to highlight the impact of COVID-19 and policies designed to control COVID-19 on the mental health of women from across Australia, including the impact of economic factors such as poverty and employment. The report to the Mental Health Commission will profile those who were most at risk of experiencing mental health problems during 2020, by taking account of previous mental health, sociodemographic status, caring responsibilities and a history of abuse prior to the pandemic. The report will also identify the burdens experienced, and coping strategies used by women during 2020, and establish the impact of the pandemic on women’s safety.  |

### Ageing

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| Project ID: A384A | **Salutogenesis and changes in self-rated health** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Meredith Tavener - School of Medicine and Public Health, Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Lucy Leigh - Hunter Medical Research Institute
* Ryan Tuckerman - Research Centre for Gender, Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle
* Alexandra Denham - School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This qualitative research seeks to identify and elucidate different patterns and changes in health among women born between 1921-1926 who have completed Survey 6 and beyond into the 6‑monthly surveys, as seen from the women’s perspective. Analysis will be according to (a) Women classified into four contrasting groups according to their self-rated health, and (b) Women classified into groups according to subjective, functional and disease measures. In both cases, random samples of women who provided free text comments on the back pages of their surveys will be selected from each group and these comments will be analysed for content and against theories of salutogenesis and ageing in older women. The theory is that women who have a positive outlook, who have a sense that life has meaning and order, as well as good personal skills and social resources will experience ageing more positively, and hence will have better physical and mental health outcomes. |
| Conference Presentations | *ACH Group Sir Keith Wilson Oration. Inspired by ageing: observations from 12432 women and one researcher.* Byles J. SA Gerontology Conference 2012.The Ageing Odyssey. It’s All About the Journey, Adelaide, South Australia 14 September 2012.*Applying the salutogenic model for better health outcomes in older Australian women*. Tavener M. 47th Australian Association of Gerontology National Conference ‘50 not out. Aiming for a century’, Adelaide, SA, 26 - 28 November 2014.*Plenary: Exploring salutary factors influencing womens health*.Tavener M. Optimising health: Salutogenic approaches to health practice, policy, research and education. University of Canberra. Canberra, ACT, 26 - 27 October 2016. |
| Project ID: A476 | **A qualitative analysis of attributes toward healthy cognitive ageing in the 1921-26 cohort.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Cynthia Forlini - School of Medicine, Deakin University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Jayne Lucke - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | This project focuses on women’s attitudes toward cognitive wellness (also referred to as brain health, mental sharpness) later in life. Given current public health messages to maintain cognitive wellness as a part of productive ageing, we are interested in the perspectives of women in the 1921-26 cohort. We will examine how these women define cognitive wellness and how they have (or not) maintained cognitive wellness as they aged. These data will shed light on the perspective of older individuals particularly on the importance they ascribe to maintaining cognitive wellness and the challenges that they may face. |
| Conference Presentations | *Are older Australian women following recommendations for healthy cognitive ageing?* Carter V, Lucke J & Forlini C. Emerging Health Policy Research Conference 2017. Menzies Centre for Health Policy, Sydney, NSW, 27 July 2017.*Are older Australians following recommendations for healthy cognitive ageing? Evidence from the 1921-26 cohort of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health.* Forlini C, Carter V & Lucke J. International Neuroethics Society Annual Meeting. Washington D.C, USA, 10 November 2017.*Ageing in a ‘neuro-society’.* Forlini C. Neuroscience & Society: Ethical, Legal & Clinical Implications of Neuroscience Research Sydney, NSW, 14-15 September 2017. |
| Project ID: A550 | **House and Home: Pathways and alternatives to residential aged care** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Tazeen Majeed - School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Newcastle
* Dr Cassie Curryer - School of Humanities & Social Sciences, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Most people want to age in their own home. Community aged care supports this need, preserving residential care for when in-home support is insufficient. This study follows a large group of women as they age from their 70’s through their 80’s and looks at changes in housing, social and living arrangements over time, how these changes correspond to health and care needs, the care services and support that women living independently in the community receive, and whether and when women move into residential aged care. |
| Publications | Changes in housing among older women: Latent class analysis of housing patterns in older Australian women. Byles J, Curryer C, Vo K, Forder P, Loxton D & McLaughlin D. *Urban Studies*, 2018, 55(4); 917-34.Cumulative incidence of admission to permanent residential aged care for Australian women - A competing risk analysis. Forder P, Byles J, Vo K, Curryer C & Loxton D. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 2018, 42(2); 166-171.Housing for older Australians: Changing capacities and constrained choices. Byles J. (2019). In AP Lane (Ed), *Urban Environments for Healthy Ageing* (pp17-35). Routledge: London.Housing and Care for Older Women in Australia. Byles JE, Princehorn EM, Forder PM & Rahman M. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 2021, 9; 566960. |
| Conference Presentations | *Home and Care. Symposium - House and home: Built environment for ageing well*. Byles J. International Federation on Ageing - 13th Global Conference on Ageing, Brisbane, Qld, 21-23 June 2015.*‘You can’t have home care if you don’t have a home’- a look at the intersection between housing and aged care in later life.* Byles J. Australian Association of Gerontology Webinar Series, 13 July, 2016.*Home and care: Analysis of 12 years of data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health.* Byles J. 21st IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, San Francisco, United States of America, 23-27 July 2017.*Housing for Older Australians: Changing Capacities and Constrained Choices*. Byles J. International Ageing Urbanism Colloquium, Singapore, 26-27 October 2017.*Symposium: Late life changes in housing: choices, enablers and barriers to ageing in place. Home and care: an example of what we know - analysis of 12 years of data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health.* Byles J, Tavener M. Australian Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics 50th Annual Conference, Perth, WA, 7-10 November 2017. |
| Project ID: A553 | **Trajectories of aged care service use: Evidence from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* A/Prof Deirdre McLaughlin - Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne
* Dr Michael Waller - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Jimmy T Efird - The University of Newcastle
* Dr Mijanur Rahman - University of Wollongong
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This project will examine trajectories into and through the aged care system, to consider how the patterns and use of aged care are influenced by changing needs and circumstances throughout late life. The aim is to examine different patterns and pathways through community and residential aged care for a large cohort of older Australian women, and to understand how different levels of care operate across time and in accordance with the changing levels of need. |
| Publications | Patterns of home and community care use among older participants in the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women’s Health. Rahman M, Efird JT & Byles JE. *European Journal on Ageing*, 2019, 16(3); 293-303Patterns of aged care use among older Australian women: A prospective cohort study using linked data. Rahman M, Efird T & Byles EJ. *Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics*, 2019, 81; 39-47.Transitioning of older Australian women into and through the long-term care system: A cohort study using linked data. Rahman M, E, Efird & Byles JE. *BMC Gariatrics*, 2019, 19; 286.Older women’s patterns of home and community care use and residential transition: An Australian cohort study. Rahman M & Byles J. *Maturitas*, 2020, 131; 28-33.Trajectories of long-term residential care needs among older Australian women: A cohort study using linked data. Rahman MM & Byles JE. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*, 2020, 21(6); 786-792.Housing and Care for Older Women in Australia. Byles JE, Princehorn EM, Forder PM & Rahman M. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 2021, 9; 566960. |
| Conference Presentations | *The types and patterns of HACC service use among a large cohort of Australian women as they age from 77-80 to 87-90*. Rahman M, Byles JE & Efird TJ. Emerging Research on Ageing (ERA) Conference, Canberra, ACT, 31 October-01 November 2016.*Repeated time to admission and length of stay in residential aged care: A recurrent event analysis using counting process model.* Rahman M, Efird TJ & Byles EJ. Young Statistician Conference - Modelling Our Future, Gold Coast, Qld, 26-27 September 2017.*Trajectories to aged care service use among older Australian women: A repeated measure latent class analysis.* Rahman M, Efird JT & Byles J. 47th Annual Meeting of the British Society of Gerontology, Manchester, United Kingdom, 4-6 July 2018.*Predicting transition of older women into and through the aged care system over time: A multi-state modelling approach using aged care linked data.* Rahman M, Efird JT & Byles JE. 37th Conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics, Melbourne, VIC, 26 - 30 August 2018.*Capitalising on longitudinal data to evaluate aged care in Australia.* Forder P, Rahman M & Byles JE. Emerging Health Policy Research Conference, Menzies Centre for Health Policy, Sydney, NSW, 26 July 2018.*Trajectories of Long Term Care Needs Among Older Australian Women in RAC.*Rahman M & Byles JE. American Geriatrics Society Annual Scientific Meeting. Portland, Oregon, USA, 2 - 4 May 2019.*Trajectories of older Australian woman in the residential settings: A multi-trajectories modelling approach (poster presentation).* Rahman M & Byles JE. American Geriatrics society Annual Scientific Meeting. Portland, Oregon, USA, 2 - 4 May 2019.*Association between patterns of community care use and RAC admission.* Rahman M, Byles JE, Holliday E. 52nd AAG Conference, Sydney, NSW, 5-8 November 2019. |
| Project ID: A596 | **Factors affecting progression of disability** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Carol Jagger - Institute of Ageing and Health, Newcastle University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Kaarin Anstey – University of New South Wales
* Dr Andrew Kingston - Newcastle University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Disability is often a feared event for older people and maintenance of ability is key to ensuring our extra years are healthy ones. Disability is usually defined as difficulty in items of mobility and activities of daily living (ADLs): Instrumental (IADLs) e.g., shopping, laundry; and Basic (BADLs) e.g., dressing, toileting. It is well known that people meet difficulty with these activities in a specific order but this has mostly been determined by cross-sectional analyses and little is known about the average times between onset of difficulty with activities or the factors which may influence them. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Impact of obesity on active and cognitive impairment-free life expectancies in older Australians.* Kingston A, Byles J, Anstey K & Jagger C. 21st IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, San Francisco, United States of America, 23-27 July 2017. |
| Project ID: A642 | **Perceptions of older women aged 87-92 about their health needs and health concerns** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof. Lynette MacKenzie - Faculty of Health Sciences, The University of Sydney
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | In 2013 the oldest cohort of the ALSWH (1921-1926) were aged 87‑92 years and represent the survivors of this cohort. We plan to analyse the qualitative comments offered by these women in response to the question “is there anything we have missed?” to identify what their individual health concerns and/or events were over the previous six months (in two surveys administered) that are not addressed in the standardised items contained within the survey. A mixed methods approach will allow us to link any key themes emerging from the qualitative data with specific characteristics of the women that may offer some new insights about the experiences of this cohort over a year. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Ageing at very old ages - perspectives of women from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health*. Byles J. 53rd AAG Conference, 18-20 November 2020 (virtual conference). |
| Project ID: A644 | **Health and well being among older Australian women before and after cataract surgery** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Alex Kitsos - Health Services Innovation Tasmania, University of Tasmania
* Dinberu Shebeshi - The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This project aims to look at how many mid-aged women and older women have reported cataract and cataract surgery and cross-check this (where possible) against hospital and Medicare records. The investigators also plan to examine the health and wellbeing of women prior to reporting cataract surgery and how this may change before and after cataract surgery. The investigators are particularly interested in how cataracts (and cataract surgery) may influence women’s continued ability to drive.  |
| Publications | Predictors of driving among older Australian women from 2002 to 2011: A longitudinal analysis of Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health based on the World Health Organization’s Healthy Ageing Framework. Hambisa MT, Dolja-Gore X & Byles JE. *Journal of Transport & Health*, 2021, 22; 101116.Determinants of driving among oldest-old Australian women. Hambisa MT, Dolja-Gore X & Byles J. *Journal of Women and Aging*, 2021. DOI: 10.1080/08952841.2021.1937012  |
| Conference / Presentations | *Six predictors of driving among oldest-old Australian women based on World Health Organization approach to Healthy Ageing*. Hambisa M. 53rd AAG Conference, 18-20 November 2020 (virtual conference). |
| Project ID: A715 | **Social interactions and loneliness in older Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Rosanne Freak-Poli - Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Jane Fisher - School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Dr Sam Brilleman - Monash University
* Dr Thach Tran - School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Dr Alice Owen - Monash University
* Dr Joanne Ryan - Monash University
* Dr Joanna McHugh Power - National College of Ireland
* Prof Michael Berk - School of Medicine, Deakin University
* Prof Nigel Stocks - Adelaide Medical School, The University of Adelaide
* A/Prof David Gonzalez-Chica - Adelaide Medical School, The University of Adelaide
* Dr Judy Lowthian - Bolton Clarke Research Institute, Brisbane
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | We tested the separation of social health concepts (see below) among 10,517 women aged 70-75 years from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (ALSWH) study in relation to health-related quality of life (QoL), which is defined as an individual’s self-perceived health status in relation to the social, cultural and environmental context. We found that social isolation, low social support and loneliness were each independently associated with worse mental and physical QoL. Loneliness had the strongest association with mental QoL (-10 units), followed by low social support (-5) and social isolation (-2). For physical QoL, loneliness (-2), low social support (-2) and social isolation (-1) were similar in their strength of association. As expected, we found that being positive on all three constructs was best, and being negative on all three was worst, for both mental and physical QoL. What was interesting is that someone who enjoyed their solitude (socially isolated, low social support, but not lonely) had similar mental and physical QoL scores to those who were positive on all three social health concepts. Also, we found that being alone in a crowd (not socially isolated, high social support, but lonely) was disparate to being negative on all three concepts. This latter finding highlights the importance of the three social health concepts being assessed simultaneously, rather than loneliness by itself. Social health relates to someone’s abilities to adapt in social situations and form satisfying meaningful relationships, and how someone interacts with and is supported by other people, institutions and services. It is not simply being unpartnered or living alone. Social isolation is an objective measure of the lack of social relationships or infrequent social contact with others. Social support is a subjective measure of how social contacts are utilised, it is the actual or perceived availability of resources from others. When discussed, ‘low’ social support is preferential as ‘lack’ is a subjective interpretation by the researcher. Loneliness is a subjective negative feeling of being isolated or lacking support. |
| Publications | Social isolation, social support and loneliness as independent concepts, and their relationship with Health-related Quality of Life among older women. Freak-Poli R, Ryan J, Tran T, Owen A, McHugh Power J, Berk M, Stocks N, Gonzalez-Chica D, Lowthian J, Fisher J & Byles J. *Aging and Mental Health*, 2021;1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13607863.2021.1940097>  |
| Project ID: A724 | **Beyond successful ageing: Longevity and healthy ageing among Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Meredith Tavener - School of Medicine and Public Health, Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle
* Dr Paul Kowal - Study on global AGEing and adult health (SAGE), World Health Organization
* Dr Lucy Leigh - Hunter Medical Research Institute
* Prof Carol Jagger - Institute of Ageing and Health, Newcastle University
* A/Prof Liz Holliday - Clinical Research Design, Information Technology and Statistical Support (CReDITSS) Unit, The University of Newcastle
* Dr John Beard - Department of Ageing and Life Course Health, World Health Organisation
* Dr Mijanur Rahman - University of Wollongong
* Emily Princehorn - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | We will examine changes within cohorts of Australian women born 1921-26 and 1946-51 to identify trajectories of Healthy Ageing as defined by WHO, and compare these as to whether or not women can be considered to have achieved Successful Ageing using disease and disability based models of ageing. We argue that Healthy Ageing allows for more diversity in ageing trajectories, with interaction between intrinsic capacities and external supports. |
| Publications | Successful ageing from old to very old: A longitudinal study of 12,432 women from Australia. Byles JE, Rahman MM, Princehorn EM, Holliday EG, Leigh L, Loxton D, Beard J, Kowal P & Jagger C. *Age and Ageing*, 2019, 48(6); 803-810. |
| Conference Presentations | *Prospects for healthy ageing and longevity for future generations of Australian women.* Byles J. 2018 International Centenarian Consortium (ICC) Meeting, Blue Mountains, NSW, 5 - 6 September 2018.*Successful ageing and longevity among Australian women.* Byles J. International Living to 100 Conference, Darling Harbour, NSW, 7 - 8 September 2018.*Successful ageing from old to very old: Findings from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’sHealth.* Byles J, Rahman M, Princehorn E, Holliday E & Jagger C. IAGG-ER 9th European Congress of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Gothenburg, Sweden, 23 - 25 May 2019.*Successful ageing from old to very old: Findings from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health.* Byles J. 52nd AAG Conference, Sydney, NSW, 5-8 November 2019.*Impact of life-style factors on health life expectancy from mid-to-older age: Evidence from Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health*. Rahman M & Byles J. 53rd AAG Conference, Virtual Conference, 18-20 November 2020. |
| Project ID: A741 | **Patient level factors that can contribute to adverse events in older women – A retrospective study of women in the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Tazeen Majeed - School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Newcastle
* Prof John Hall - School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of New South Wales
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | We are exploring patient level factors that can contribute to adverse events in the aging population during episodes of hospitalization. We would like to look at the old and mid-age cohort of women as older people and women are both higher users of hospitals. By looking at the survey details of patients who have had adverse events, we would like to assess the effects of aging like frailty and comorbidities, cognitive deficits including dementia and related conditions, and social living circumstances including availability of social support on the adverse events. |

### Social factors in health and wellbeing

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| Project ID: A299 | **Coping with motherhood and work: Predicting positive wellbeing among young Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Melissa Johnstone - Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Christina Lee - School of Psychology, University of Queensland
* A/Prof Belinda Hewitt - School of Social and Political Sciences, The University of Melbourne
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Jayne Lucke - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Successfully managing work and family responsibilities is a major issue for most Australians (Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission, HREOC, 2005; Productivity Commission, 2008) that impacts strongly on employed women who still undertake the bulk of the responsibility for housework and caring for children. This ‘double’ or ‘second’ shift has potential implications for the health of many Australian women. As one way to balance paid work and family, many Australian women shift to part-time hours or casual employment after having children. However, there is evidence to suggest that these jobs are often not very good positions, and this may pose a concern to younger generations of women who are more invested in careers and education than were earlier generations of women.How do younger generations of Australian women - who are encouraged to pursue education and aspire to careers - then combine work and family? If they continue in full-time employment; shift to part‑time employment or move out of the workforce altogether after having children - is that what they want? Or have they compromised on something to which they feel they are entitled? And how does their combination of work and family, and the quality of these roles, impact upon their health and wellbeing? This project addresses these questions.  |
| Publications | Life transitions and women’s desired number of children: The impact of motherhood, relationships and employment. Johnstone M, Lucke J & Hewitt B. *Community, Work and Family*, 2020. DOI: [10.1080/13668803.2020.1744526](https://doi.org/10.1080/13668803.2020.1744526) The emotional impact of unfulfilled career aspirations for stay-at-home mothers in Australia. Johnstone M & Lucke J. *Journal of Family Issues*, 2021.DOI: 10.1177/0192513X211030730  |
| Project ID: A436 | **Longitudinal analysis of time stress in younger and mid-aged Australian women.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Meredith Tavener - School of Medicine and Public Health, Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Tazeen Majeed - School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Newcastle
* Dr Steffen Otterbach - University of Hohenheim
 |
| Liaison person | * A/Prof Leigh Leigh - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Time is an important issue for most people. How often have we tried to ‘save time’, wished for ‘more time’, and feel we ‘never have enough time’. Increasing work pressures and family demands means that people can feel that they are ‘running out of time’ more and more. Framed against productive ageing and role theory, this work will compare women from the younger and mid-aged cohorts across five survey points, involving: (1) latent class analysis and structural equation modelling to identify the social and health related determinants of time stress, and (2) analysis of qualitative data to help interpret differences in the younger and mid-aged women over time. |
| Project ID: A533 | **Swings in roundabouts: How women juggle family life and retirement** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Meredith Tavener - School of Medicine and Public Health, Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Helen Feist - Australian Population and Migration Research Centre, University of Adelaide
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This research will build upon work already conducted into women’s retirement using ALSWH data, to deepen our understanding of this period in women’s lives. Results from a 2006 retirement sub-study (conducted with women from the 1946-51 cohort) will be contrasted against ALSWH free-text comments at Survey 4 (2004), Survey 5 (2007), Survey 6 (2010) and Survey 7 (2013) made by the same women. We will report upon areas of the women’s lives they would like to change in retirement, what stops them doing what they want to do, if they thought that retirement would allow them to make those changes and if the survey had ‘missed anything’. The primary aim of this research is to investigate whether women were able to act on their 2006 aspirations for change, and if not, what influences adversely affected their choices. Please note that Dr Helen Feist is currently seeking internal University financial support and/or an Honours student or summer intern student to progress this work in 2021/2022. |
| Project ID: A623 | **Thinking ahead: How healthy do baby boomer women think they will be?** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Meredith Tavener - School of Medicine and Public Health, Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Tazeen Majeed - School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Newcastle
* Ryan Tuckerman - Research Centre for Gender, Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle
* Dominic Cavenagh - Research Centre for Gender, Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | As Australia's life expectancy is lengthening, baby boomers might be wondering whether a longer life will be lived in better or worse health. In 2006, women from the 1946-51 cohort took part in a sub-study on retirement. As part of the sub-study they were also asked about their present health and what they expected of their health in 20 years. It will be 10 years in 2016 (i.e., half way through their expectation), since the women were asked that question, and a good time to see whether they are 'on track' according to their own health expectations.This project is still in progress. We aim to produce 3-way cross tab tables between data sets (following linkage), to report - where women were then, what they expected then, and where they are now. We will then examine factors associated with congruent and incongruent expectations. |
| Project ID: A638 | **Young Australian mother’s perceptions of life and learning** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Catherine Chojenta - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Christine Sefton - The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The project will explore individual perceptions, feelings and behaviour of young mothers.  |
| Project ID: A697A | **Sexual fluidity amongst Australian women over the life course**. |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Alice Campbell - Life Course Centre, Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Francisco Perales - Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland
* Prof Janeen Baxter - Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | In the past, it was assumed that a person’s sexual orientation stayed the same throughout their life. However, it has recently been documented that a significant number of men and (particularly) women report changes to their sexual orientation over time. The aim of this project is to provide first-time, systematic Australian evidence on how common changes in sexual orientation are, what factors make these more and less likely to occur, their timing and their impact on women’s life outcomes. |
| Publications | Sexual minority women in longitudinal survey research: Is attrition a problem?. Campbell A, Perales F & Baxter J. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 2020, 49(5); 1443-1461.Changes in sexual identity labels in a contemporary cohort of emerging adult women: Patterns, prevalence and a typology. Campbell A, Perales F & Baxter J. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 2020. |
| Conference Presentations | *Leveraging large-scale panel data to study sexual orientation: Two case studies.*Campbell A, Perales F & Baxter J. Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies Conference, Milan, Italy, 9-11 July 2019.*Sexual-identity fluidity and depression in a national cohort of young Australian women.* Campbell A. Australian Public Health Conference 2019, Adelaide, SA, 17 September 2019.*Patterns and prevalence of sexual identity change: Evidence from two cohorts of Australian women.* Campbell A, Perales F & Baxter J. International Academy of Sex Researchers 2020 Virtual Meeting, 29 July 2020. |
| Project ID: A736A | **Screen time in Australian children: Socioeconomic, maternal, parenting, time use and family environment factors associated with meeting screen time guidelines (Analysis of data from the MatCH study)** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Leigh Tooth - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Richard Hockey - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Katrina Moss - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * A/Prof Leigh Tooth - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Recently released guidelines from the Australian Government recommends maximum daily screen time for children aged 0 - <1, 1-2, 3-5 and 5-12 years. Previous Australian research has linked screen time in children with socioeconomic factors in their parents (for example years of education) as well as with parenting style and home environment, however the majority of this research has investigated this issue in older children, has not linked long standing maternal factors and has not examined associations between and within families. This research aims to determine the associations between children’s screen time and sleep, diet, physical activity, physical and cognitive development, quality of life, behaviour, maternal factors, parenting styles and the home environment. |
| Publications | Adherence to screen time recommendations for Australian children aged 0-12 years. Tooth L, Moss K, Hockey R & Mishra G. *Medical Journal of Australia*, 2019, 211(4); 181-182. |
| Project ID: A803 | **Influence of shift work on menopausal vasomotor symptoms, an analysis of the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women’s Health** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Qunyan Xu - University of South Australia
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Adrian Esterman - University of South Australia
* A/Prof Jill Dorrian - University of South Australia
* A/Prof Jane Warland - University of South Australia
* Dr Dotoetha Dumuid - Alliance for Research in Exercise, Nutrition and Activity (ARENA), University of South Australia
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | With the ageing workforce, many women are and will find themselves managing menopause transition during their employment. As a frequent complaint of menopausal transition, vasomotor symptoms including hot flushes and night sweats pose challenges to various aspects of women’s life such as sleep disturbance and social inconvenience. Shift work is a well-recognised occupational risk with wide implications on individuals’ health. Although much attention has been paid to understanding its impact on reproductive health outcomes including spontaneous pregnancy loss and menstrual disturbance, little is known about whether and how much shift work affects menopausal vasomotor symptoms in middle aged women. |
| Project ID: A331B | **Emerging adulthood, life transitions, and wellbeing** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Christina Lee - School of Psychology, University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Robert Ware - School of Public Health, University of Queensland
* Richard Hockey - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Libby Holden - School of Psychology, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Christina Lee - School of Psychology, University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | The transitions from adolescence to adulthood are more protracted and complex today than for previous generations. Young people spend longer in education and training, and the traditional transitions of early adulthood ‘leaving the family home, adult employment, marriage/relationship, and parenthood’ tend to occur later, in a range of sequences, or indeed not at all. This project uses the longitudinal strengths of the ALSWH to describe the transitions and sequences of the 1973-1978 cohort over Surveys 1 to 8, and the relationships between different patterns of transition and several measures of psychological well-being. It also includes analyses of health behaviours, physical health, and health service use. |
| Due to funding freezes, no work was able to be conducted from Feb 2020 until April 2021. We are now working on the final analyses for this project, involving group-based trajectory modelling of mental health by relationship status (yes/no) over 8 waves of the 1973-1978 cohort. We have completed the identification of trajectory groups, and Dr Holden is working on analysing group differences at S1 and S8. The next step will be to analyse mental health (MHI-5) changes over time, with and without adjustment. Professor Lee is working on a couple of literature review papers on the general question of whether moving into a relationship in early to mid-adulthood makes you happy or healthy (the answer seems to be that we really don't know, because most of the existing evidence focuses on older people and compares 'always married' with recently divorced/widowed). We are making progress but it is slow. |

### Abuse

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| Project ID: A237B | **The long-term implications of intimate partner violence for health and social support among mid-older Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Amy Anderson - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) have a significant impact on women’s physical, mental and emotional health. These poorer health outcomes have been shown to continue long after the violence has ceased. Therefore, the cessation of violence alone may not rectify the health impact of experiences of violence. It is unknown whether time alone can heal the physical, psychological and emotional impact of IPV, or if increased social support or other demographic factors may assist in reducing poor health outcomes after IPV. This project will examine health outcomes of the 1946-51 and 1973-78 cohorts of women after the cessation of IPV, factors associated with these outcomes over time and whether social support plays a significant role in reducing the ongoing adverse health outcomes after the cessation of IPV. |
| Project ID: A607B | **Adverse childhood experiences among Australian women.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Catherine Chojenta - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Amy Anderson - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Natalie Townsend - Centre for Women’sHealth Research, The University of Newcastle
* A/Prof Liz Holliday - Clinical Research Design, Information Technology and Statistical Support (CReDITSS) Unit, The University of Newcastle
* Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Alemu Sufa Melka - The University of Newcastle Ms Emma Byrnes - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) scale has been widely used in the U.S. population. Findings have indicated that adults who have experienced adversity in childhood have poorer overall health and are more likely to use tobacco, illicit drugs and use alcohol at risky levels. The ACE scale was pilot tested with the 1989-1995 cohort in 2014 and was rolled out to the main 1989-1995 cohort in 2015. This current project will examine the endorsement and validity of the ACE scale among the 1989-1995 cohort participants, with further examination of the prevalence of childhood abuse and trauma and its correlates. The examination of the prevalence of childhood abuse and trauma and its correlates will also be extended to the 1973-78 cohort and 1946-51 cohort. In addition, we aim to examine the relationship between ACEs, childhood abuse and trauma with medical and other health care costs. |
| Publications | Adverse childhood experiences and healthcare costs in adult life. Loxton D, Townsend N, Dolja-Gore X, Forder P & Coles J.. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 2019, 28(5); 511-525. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Adverse Childhood Experiences: Findings from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’sHealth.* Loxton D. 16th Annual Hawaii International Summit on Preventing, Assessing and Treating Trauma Across the Lifespan. Honolulu, Hawaii, 23-26 April. |
| Project ID: A612 | **Violence and reproductive ageing in mid-life.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Abdulbasit Seid - The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Physical and psychological effects of violence may negatively impact on women’s reproductive lives. Most of the research focuses on the impact of violence on women during their childbearing years. However, violence may have an enduring influence on women, affecting their experience of reproductive ageing (e.g., age of menopause, duration of peri-menopause, menopause status (including hysterectomy + bilateral oophorectomy and hormone therapy use), vasomotor, somatic and psychosocial symptoms). Using data from the1946-51 cohort, this study will examine the extent to which violence in mid-aged women is associated with their experience of reproductive ageing in mid-life. |
| Publications | The role of smoking in the relationship between intimate partner violence and age at natural menopause: A mediation analysis. Mishra GD, Chung HF, Gelaw YA & Loxton D. W*omen’s Midlife Health*, 2018, 4(1); 1-10. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Intimate partner violence, smoking, and age at natural menopause.* Mishra G. Australasian Epidemiological Association (AEA) Annual Scientific Meeting 2017, Sydney, NSW, 28 - 30 September 2017. |
| Project ID: A787 | **Intimate partner violence, reproductive outcomes and contraceptive use in the 1973-1978 and 1989-95 cohorts** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Natalie Townsend - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Jacqueline Coombe - Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne
* Nick Egan - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Women are disproportionally at greater risk of family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV), which is typically perpetrated by a current or previous partner, and usually takes place in their home. Women experiencing FDSV are less likely to have a planned pregnancy or be able to make autonomous decisions about their contraceptive use. Using data from the 1973-78 and 1989-93 cohorts, we aim to examine the patterns of contraceptive use, and reproductive outcomes (including accidental pregnancy, miscarriage, termination and birth) for women who report experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV), versus those women who have not. |
| Project ID: A789 | **Examining the long-term impacts of abuse on women's health across the life course** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Amy Anderson - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Natalie Townsend - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Isabelle Barnes - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Emma Byrnes - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Nick Egan - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Experiencing violence or abuse can lead to negative health outcomes. There are many forms of violence and abuse that women may experience across their life course, including childhood abuse, intimate partner violence and elder abuse. While some women have never experienced such trauma, others have experienced multiple forms of abuse throughout their lives. This project aims to examine the relationship between different patterns of abuse and health outcomes, and to identify the factors that mitigate or exacerbate the impact of abuse on health. |
| Project ID: A805 | **Sexual violence and its impact on psychosocial wellbeing in women: A longitudinal analysis** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Robyn Brunton - Charles Sturt University
 |
| Other collaborators | * A/Prof Rachel Dryer - Australian Catholic University
 |
| Liaison person | * Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This study will examine the relationship between the experience of sexual violence (SV) and psycho-social well-being for the 1973-78 cohort. Groups of women will be examined in relation to their SV experience against reported health, well-being and health-related behaviours. The study aims to track the groups across time according to SV experience, examining psychological outcomes and health behaviours. We also aim to examine psychosocial well-being before/after SV. Additionally, we will track the women in regards to the risk of re-victimization of SV as well as the occurrence of reported partner abuse. The mediating role of social support will also be explored (for the second and third aims) between SV, well-being and adverse outcomes. |
| Project ID: A847 | **Income contingent loans for women who experience intimate partner violence** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Jananie William - School of Finance, Australian National University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Bruce Chapman - Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University
* Natalie Townsend - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* A/Prof Timothy Higgins - Australian National University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Financial stress is known to be a major factor for women staying in violent relationships. This project will investigate an income-contingent loan (ICL) scheme for women who experience intimate partner violence (IPV) to enable them to more safely leave these situations. Data from the ALSWH will be used to analyse the demographics of women who experience violence, which will provide input into the parameters of an ICL scheme so that it will be financially sustainable for all parties involved. |
| Project ID: A848 | **A life course approach to determining the prevalence and impact of sexual violence in Australia** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Natalie Townsend - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Isabelle Barnes - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Emma Byrnes - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Nick Egan - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Approximately one in 5 Australian women have experienced sexual violence, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Personal Safety Survey. The purpose of this research is to take a life course approach to determining the prevalence, and impact of sexual violence among Australian women, by analysing national, longitudinal data. Analyses will include disaggregation by sexual identity, cultural and linguistic diversity, disability, and urban/regional/remote area of residence, where the data permit. |

### Methodological issues

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| Project ID: A058A | **Use of ALSWH data to develop and illustrate methodology for analysing longitudinal data.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Louise Wilson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Michael Waller - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Zhiwei Xu - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Mohammad Reza Baneshi - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Colleen Loos - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* David Fitzgerald - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Paul McElwee - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | This application is to use ALSWH data to develop and illustrate methodological issues. The data will be used for methodology research, testing data access platforms and teaching. We do not anticipate that the data would be used to investigate substantive issues. If any of the work were to develop into manuscripts for submission to journals it would be submitted to the Data Access Committee in the usual manner as an amendment or new EoI. |
| Project ID: A678 | **Retention of participants over 21 years for three age cohorts** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Anna Graves - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Amy Anderson - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Isabelle Barnes - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Nick Egan - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Effective participant retention is a challenge for longitudinal cohort studies. Over the past 25 years ALSWH has retained participants in three cohorts who were aged 18-23, 45-50 and 70-75 when the study first collected data in 1996. Women leave the study for a variety of reasons and these differ by cohort. The aims of this paper are to examine the predictors of attrition and retention across the original three ALSWH cohorts and to examine the effectiveness of various retention methods. |
| Project ID: A684C | **Death certification of elderly women with dementia, and other chronic conditions** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Richard Hockey - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Michael Waller - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Kim-Huong Nguyen - The University of Queensland
* Paul McElwee - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Mohammad Reza Baneshi - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Death certification is difficult for elderly people with multiple chronic conditions. As a result, doctors may omit to mention some conditions, such as dementia. However the underlying causes of death recorded on death certificates form one of the foundations of the national health statistics produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and in turn have significant influence on health policy and service provision. The purpose of this project is to improve understanding of the accuracy of death certification and to help ABS develop better methods of collecting and reporting mortality data. |
| Project ID: A699 | **Using geocoded data to assign environmental exposures** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Luke Knibbs - Honorary Principal Fellow, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Richard Hockey - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* David Fitzgerald - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Tafzila Akter Mouly - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | People's exposure to adverse environmental hazards like air pollution and noise is highly dependent on where they live. This is also true for exposures that may be beneficial, like green spaces. This project will use geocoded data from the ALSWH and MatCH studies (i.e., latitude and longitude of each residential address) to develop an exposure database that will then be available to ALSWH researchers to assess the associations between environmental exposures and health outcomes in these cohorts. |
| Project ID: A833 | **Use of external administrative data that may be linked with ALSWH survey data to develop and illustrate methodological issues** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Richard Hockey - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* David Fitzgerald - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Amy Anderson - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Colleen Loos - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Michael Waller - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Darsy Darssan - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Nick Egan - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Katrina Moss - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Mohammad Reza Baneshi - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Amy Anderson - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Paul McElwee - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | This project will facilitate research planning, in particular, the judicious use of linked data, by enabling key ALSWH researchers at the Universities of Queensland and Newcastle, who have extensive experience with linked data, to conduct exploratory analyses and preparatory work for government deliverables. The results of these analyses will only be used to inform research planning. Where analyses are considered worth pursuing, a new EoI will be developed and submitted to the Data Access Committee. |
| Project ID: A804 | **Ascertainment of parity in the ALSWH/MatCH cohorts using linked perinatal records.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Colleen Loos - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* David Fitzgerald - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Christine Coleman - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | In 2016-17, the Mothers and their Children’s Health (MatCH) study asked the 1973-78 ALSWH cohort about the health of their children (then aged under 13 years). Over 3,000 mothers (of 14,247 women originally enrolled in the ALSWH cohort in 1996) took part, reporting on 5,799 children. This project uses linked perinatal records for the whole 1973-78 cohort; and published data for same-aged women in the Australian Population; to assess the representativeness of both MatCH and ALSWH, in terms of the number and ages of birth children. |

### Tobacco, alcohol and other drugs

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| Project ID: A826 | **Changes in body-mass index and smoking status between pregnancies and risk of miscarriage: The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Maria Christine Magnus - Centre for Fertility and Health, Norwegian Institute of Public Health
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Richard Hockey - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | In this project, we will examine whether women who smoke or are obese before pregnancy have an increased risk of miscarriage. We will also look at whether changes in smoking habits or weight between pregnancies might influence the risk of miscarriage in the later pregnancy. The information from this project will therefore help clinicians in providing women with recommendations regarding their lifestyle to reduce their risk of miscarriage. |
| Project ID: A831 | **The effects of substance use in Australian women (born 1989-1995; and 1973-1978) on health, wellbeing and mental health** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Kylie Bailey - Psychology Department, University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Elizabeth Stojanovski - School of Mathematical & Physical Sciences, University of Newcastle
* Dr Tazeen Majeed - School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Newcastle
* Dr Julia Dray - The University of
* Dr Eliza Skelton - The University of Newcastle
* Dr Beth Mah - Hunter New England Area Health
* Natalie Sinclair - Macquarie Drug and Alcohol Service, Mid North Coast Area Health
 |
| Liaison person | * Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Understanding the prevalence of substance use in women as well as changes in use across the generations, will assist health workers and policy makers to provide substance use treatments that are more appropriate for women. This project has three studies that explore self‑reported substance use in Australian women in the 1973-1978 and 1989-1995 cohorts. The first study is a longitudinal study and will investigate substance use. The second study will compare substance use between the 73-78 and the 89-95 cohorts. The third study will explore the impacts of substance use on women’s health, wellbeing and mental health. |

### Health in rural and remote areas

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| Project ID: A827 | **The influence of geographic location on Australian women’s reproductive health** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Leesa Hooker - La Trobe University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Angela Taft - School of Nursing and Midwifery, La Trobe University
* Mridula Shankar - Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
* Dr Kristina Edvardsson - La Trobe University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Jayne Lucke - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | This project examines prevalence, rurality and other factors associated longitudinally with women’s reports of abortion (termination of pregnancy). It will specifically look at predictors of abortion and how these change over time and geographic location. We propose to examine this among all women who have reported one or more abortions in the last five surveys of the 1973-78 and 1989-95 cohorts. Predicting factors may include geographic location (ARIA), socio‑economic status, LARC/contraceptive practice, health service use, extent of ACEs, mental health, self-harm and abuse status. Associated qualitative data may also be examined. |
| Project ID: A670 | **Oral Health - Findings from the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Ratilal Lalloo - School of Dentistry, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Chris Sexton - School of Dentistry, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Oral health studies are generally cross-sectional and seldom report longitudinal follow-up of study participants. The Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health offers an opportunity to measure the oral health across a number of surveys, where the same/similar questions were asked; to assess changes in self-reported oral health status and relationships between surveys and potential determinants of oral health, such as socioeconomic status, private health insurance, location, smoking and menopause. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Considerations for the analysis of longitudinal data*. Sexton C, Lalloo R & Mishra G. International Association for Dental Research Asia Pacific Region (IADR-APR) 2019, Brisbane, QLD, 28 - 30 November 2019. |

## Completed

### Reproductive health

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| Project ID: A748 | **Assessment of incidence and predictors of hypertension in pregnancy in women with PCOS** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Anju Joham - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * A/Prof Arul Earnest - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Prof Helena Teede - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* A/Prof Lisa Moran - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Sanjeeva Ranasinha - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Mahnaz Bahri Khomami - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) is a common disorder that affects women who are of childbearing age. It is associated with many complications including infertility, but also carries increased risk of pregnancy related complications. In this research project, we will compare women with PCOS to those without PCOS over time to try and understand if women with PCOS have increased rates of high blood pressure in pregnancy and the key contributing factors, in particular to study the effect of body weight. |
| Publications | Predictors of hypertensive disorders in pregnancy in women with and without polycystic ovary syndrome: The Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health. Khomani MB, Earnest A, Loxton D, Teede HJ & Joham AE. *Clinical Endocrinology*, 2021, 95(2): 323-331. |
| Project ID: A747 | **Assessment of incidence and predictors of long-term metabolic complications of PCOS** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Anju Joham - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * A/Prof Arul Earnest - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Prof Helena Teede - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Eldho Paul - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Monash University
* A/Prof Lisa Moran - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Sanjeeva Ranasinha - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Mahnaz Bahri Khomami - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) is a common disorder that affects women who are of childbearing age. It is associated with many complications including infertility, but also carries long-term complications such as excess weight, diabetes and high blood pressure. In this research project, we will compare women with PCOS to those without PCOS over time to try and understand what the key contributing factors are to the development of PCOS, the long-term metabolic complications of PCOS and in particular to study the effect of body weight. |
| Publications | Group-based developmental BMI trajectories, polycystic ovary syndrome, and gestational diabetes: A community-based longitudinal study. Kakoly NS, Earnest A, Moran LJ, Teede HJ & Joham AE. *BMC Medicine*, 2017, 15(1); 195.SAT-015 incidence and predictors of hypertension in a cohort of Australian women with and without Polycystic Ovary Syndrome. Kakoly NS, Earnest A, Loxton D & Teede HJ. *Journal of the Endocrine Society*, 2020, 4(1).The impact of obesity on the incidence of type 2 diabetes among women with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome. Kakoly NS, Earnest A, Teede HJ, Moran LJ & Joham AE. *Diabetes Care*, 2019, 42(4); 560-567.Incidence and predictors of hypertension in a cohort of Australian women with and without Polycystic Ovary Syndrome. Joham JE, Kakoly NS, Teede HJ & Earnest A. *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*, 2021, 106(6); 1585-1593. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Longitudinal BMI trajectories and gestational diabetes: Relationships in women with and without Polycystic Ovary Syndrome.* Kakoly NS, Earnest A, Moran LJ, Loxton D, Teede HJ & Joham AE. 14th Annual Meeting of the Androgen Excess and PCOS Society, Lorne, VIC, 10 -12 November 2016.*Role of obesity in the development of gestational diabetes mellitus in women with and without Polycystic Ovary Syndrome.* Kakoly NS, Earnest A, Moran LJ, Loxton D, Teede HJ & Joham AE. Joint Scientific Meeting of The Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society National Conference, Brisbane, Qld, 19 - 21 October. *The impact of obesity on the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus among women with polycystic ovary syndrome.* Kakoly NS, Earnest A, Teede HJ, Moran LJ & Joham AE. American Diabetes Association, Orlando, Florida, USA, 22 - 26 June 2018. |
| Project ID: A413 | **Oestrogen exposure index (OEI) for post-menopausal women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Michael Waller - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Hsin-Fang Chung - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Lifetime exposure to reproductive hormones may protect post‑menopausal women from chronic disease and poor mental health. During their reproductive lives, many women are exposed to natural oestrogen during pregnancy, and synthetic oestrogen in the form of oral contraception. The use of hormone replacement therapy by peri‑menopausal women can provide additional exposure to synthetic oestrogen. The aim of this project is to develop an oestrogen exposure index (OEI) for post-menopausal women (i.e., the 1946-51 cohort), of whom 92% have had at least one pregnancy, and examine the relationship between women’s OEI and their post-menopausal risk of chronic disease, cognition, and well-being. |
| Publications | Association of the length of oestrogen exposure with risk of incident stroke in postmenopausal women: Insights from a 20-year prospective study. Mishra SR, Waller M, Chung HF & Mishra GD. *International Journal of Cardiology*, 2021, 328; 206-214. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Oestrogen-exposure and cardiovascular disease events, all-cause and cardiovascular mortality: A systematic review*. Mishra SR. Australasian Epidemiological Association (AEA) Annual Scientific Meeting 2019, Brisbane, QLD, 23-25 October 2019.*Oestrogen exposure indices and risk of stroke in post-menopausal women: 20-year cohort study*. Mishra SR. UQ Faculty of Medicine RHD Student Conference, Brisbane, Qld, Nov-2020.*Oestrogen exposure indices and incident stroke in post-menopausal women: Insights from Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health*. Mishra SR. The American College of Cardiology’s 69th Scientific Session with WHF’s World Congress of Cardiology, Chicago, USA, 28 - 30 March 2020. |
| Project ID: A515 | **Is preconception perceived stress a risk factor for low birth weight?** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Catherine Chojenta - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Alexis Hure - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Amy Anderson - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* A/Prof Liz Holliday - Clinical Research Design, Information Technology and Statistical Support (CReDITSS) Unit, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This study examines the relationship between preconception levels of perceived stress and low birth weight for first time mothers using population-based data. Low birth weight puts an infant at risk of adverse outcomes including neonatal death, growth retardation and behavioural problems. While a number of modifiable risk factors for low birth weight have been identified (including smoking and poor nutrition), recent evidence suggests that stress may play a role in poor obstetric outcomes. Perceived stress experienced during pregnancy has been associated with very low birth weight; however little is known about the impact of perceived stress levels experienced prior to pregnancy on low birth weight. The findings will inform the development of future intervention and prevention strategies. |
| Publications | Association between preconception maternal stress and offspring birth weight: Findings from an Australian longitudinal data linkage study. Harris ML, Hure AJ, Holliday E, Chojenta C, Anderson AE & Loxton D. *BMJ Open*, 2021, 11; e041502. |
| Project ID: A475B | **The role of socio-demographic factors in explaining the heterogeneity in the timing of first and subsequent childbirths and birth outcomes** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Mohammad Reza Baneshi - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* A/Prof Leigh Tooth - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | This project aimed to explore the relationship between a) socio‑demographic factors (education level, employment status, income, marital status/living arrangements, area of residence, and age) and the timing of first and subsequent childbirths; b) how these relationships are modified by sexually transmitted infections (STIs), health behaviours (smoking, alcohol and illicit drug use, BMI), and the experience of previous problems with childbirths. It also investigated the timing of childbirths with perinatal outcomes. This project used a sophisticated repeated time-to-event model for recurrent events and focused on women who have given birth during the study period (Survey 1-Survey 8).We found that there are maternal socioeconomic, health and reproductive factors that are associated with inter-birth intervals. In a high-income country such as Australia, advice on birth spacing may need to focus more on maternal socioeconomic, health and reproductive factors, such as maternal age, rather than World Health Organisation recommendations which are largely based on data from low and middle-income countries. |

### Methodological issues

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| Project ID: A653 | **External validation of a screening instrument to identify cardiometabolic predictors of mortality in adults with cancer** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Michelle Miller - Flinders University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Bogda Koczwara - Southern Adelaide Local Health Network
* A/Prof Billingsley Kaambwa - Flinders University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Flinders University developed and internally validated a screening instrument using data from the Australian Longitudinal Study of Ageing that can be used to predict cardiometabolic risk of mortality in elderly cancer survivors and defined centile values for risk classification. Recently, we have externally validated this model in female cancer survivors participating in the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health. The model can serve as a basis of a clinical tool to assist with decision-making regarding potential risk reduction strategies in this population. |
| Publications | External validation of a model to identify cardiometabolic predictors of mortality in cancer survivors. Koczwara B, Kaambwa B, Knowles R & Miller M. *Supportive Care in Cancer*, 2021. |
| Conference / Presentations | *External validation of a screening instrument to identify cardiometabolic predictors of mortality in individuals with cancer. Poster presentation*. Koczwara B, Kaambwa B & Miller M. 2018 ASCO Quality Care Symposium, Phoenix, USA, 28 - 29 September 2018. |
| Project ID: A546B | **Capture-recapture using multiple data sources: Estimating the prevalence of dementia in a cohort of older women**. |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Michael Waller - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | As Australia’s population ages, the number of people with dementia will also increase. As such the costs and resources required to treat these people is likely to increase considerably. It is important to understand when, and in what setting dementia is diagnosed to inform policy decisions regarding this condition. A paper comparing the results produced from cause specific and competing risk survival models when analysing dementia incidence has now been published in the journal *Epidemiologic Methods* (2020). |
| Publications | A comparison of cause-specific and competing risk models to assess risk factors for dementia. Waller M; Mishra GD & Dobson AJ. *Epidemiologic Methods*, 2020, 9(1); 20190036.Estimating the prevalence of dementia using multiple linked administrative health records and capture/recapture methodology. Waller M, Mishra G & Dobson A. *Emerging Themes in Epidemiology*, 2017, 14(3); 1-9. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Using linked data to estimate the prevalence of dementia in Australian women.* Waller M, Mishra G & Dobson A. The Farr Institute 2015 International Conference, St Andrews, Scotland, 26 - 28 August 2015.*The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (ALSWH): Advantages and challenges of linking longitudinal survey data with medical administrative databases.* Waller M, Jones M & Mishra G. National Centre for Longitudinal Data: Longitudinal Data Conference 2016, Canberra, ACT, 25 - 27 October 2016.*Using linked data to identify dementia records from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health.* Waller M. NNIDR Australian Dementia Forum, Hobart, TAS, 13-14 June. |

### Chronic conditions

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| Project ID: A698 | **Dietary intake and type 2 diabetes among women with and without a history of gestational diabetes** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Ellie D Arcy - Health Intelligence Unit, NSW Health
 |
| Other collaborators | * Allison Hodge - Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria
* Dr Danielle Schoenaker - University of Southampton
* Dr Lynda Ross - School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, Queensland University of Technology (QUT)
* Jessica Rayner - Griffith University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Women with gestational diabetes receive dietary advice to limit carbohydrate intake during their pregnancy as part of medical nutrition therapy. Evidence on whether any maternal dietary changes are sustained post-pregnancy, and into mid-life is limited. The proposed project seeks to explore the differences in dietary intake among mid‑age women with and without a history of gestational diabetes. Specifically, this project will examine if a diet low in carbohydrates is negatively or positively associated with the development of impaired glucose tolerance and type 2 diabetes, and if these associations differ according to history of gestational diabetes |
| Publications | Carbohydrate restriction in midlife is associated with higher risk of type 2 diabetes among Australian women: A cohort study. Rayner J, D'Arcy E, Ross LJ, Hodge A & Schoenaker DAJM. *Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases*, 2020, 30(3); 400-409. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Carbohydrate restriction in midlife is associated with higher incidence of type 2 diabetes among Australian women with and without previous gestational diabetes: a cohort study*. Gresham E. Nutrition Society of Australia, 42nd Annual Scientific Meeting, Canberra, ACT, 27 - 30 November 2018. |
| Project ID: A708B | **Association between dietary flavonoid intake and hypertension and dementia in Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Karen Charlton - School of Medicine, University of Wollongong
 |
| Other collaborators | * Allison Hodge - Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria
* Dr Danielle Schoenaker - University of Southampton
* Dr Katherine Kent - University of Tasmania
* Ezinne Igwe - University of Wollongong
* Dr Yasmine Probst - University of Wollongong
* Dr Katrina Green - University of Wollongong
* Kristina Vingrys - Victoria University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This study aims to evaluate dietary intake of flavonoids in prevalence and incidence of hypertension among women in different life stages. Secondary outcomes are to evaluate dietary intake of flavonoids in prevalence of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and Alzheimer`s disease/dementia and investigate association between hypertension and these conditions. |
| Publications | Association between flavonoid intake and risk of hypertension in two cohorts of Australian women: a longitudinal study. do Rosario V, Schoenaker DAJM, Kent K, Weston-Green K & Charlton K. *European Journal of Nutrition*, 2021, 60(5); 2507-2519. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Association between flavonoid intake and risk of hypertension among middle-aged Australian women: a longitudinal cohort study.*do Rosario VA. Nutrition Society of Australia 43rd Annual Scientific Meeting. Newcastle, 2-5 December, 2019. |

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| Project ID: A790 | **Life course weight trajectory and risk of type 2 diabetes** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Juhua Luo - School of Public Health, Indiana University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Allison Hodge - Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria
* Prof Michael Hendryx - School of Public Health, University of Indiana
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This project will use a life-course approach to examine the associations between weight trajectory patterns and subsequent risk of type 2 diabetes. In addition to examining the overall impacts of distinct weight trajectory patterns on type 2 diabetes risk, we will further explore impacts of various body mass index (BMI) metrics over the life course for those women who became obese after baseline, such as age at onset of obesity, duration of being obese, and obese-years (product of the degree and the duration of obesity similar conceptually to pack‑years for smoking), on the risk of type 2 diabetes. |
| Publications | Age of obesity onset, cumulative obesity exposure over early adulthood and risk of type 2 diabetes. Luo J, Hodge A, Hendryx M & Byles J. *Diabetologia*, 2020, 63(3); 519-527.BMI trajectory and subsequent risk of type 2 diabetes among middle age women. Luo J, Hodge A, Hendryx M & Byles JE. *Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases*, 2021, 31(4): 1063-1070. |

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| Project ID: A133D | **Incident osteoarthritis in a cohort of "baby boomer" women: Management and outcomes in the Australian community** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Lynne Parkinson - Health CRN, CQ University Australia
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Parker Magin - School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Michelle Cunich - The Boden Institute of Obesity, Nutrition, Exercise and Eating Disorders, The University of Sydney
* A/Prof Fiona Blyth - Pain Management & Research Centre, The University of Sydney
* Dr Geeske Peeters - Radboud University Medical Centre (UMC), The Netherlands
* Prof Dimity Pond - School of Medicine & Public Health, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Gillian Caughey - University of South Australia
* A/Prof Satvinder Dhaliwal - Curtin University
* A/Prof Rachael Moorin - Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute, Curtin University
* Dr Norman Ng - School of Human Movment Studies, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Osteoarthritis (OA) is a leading contributor to disability in Australia. As OA is the most common chronic disease reported by older women, there is a critical need to understand the factors that enable women with OA to remain active and independent in the community as they age. The NHMRC endorsed RACGP guidelines for non-surgical management of OA in the Australian health care context emphasise the importance of self-management to prevent acute OA episodes, and delay functional limitations and disability. However, we do not know how OA is being managed in the community. This project will examine the extent to which RACGP guidelines are being applied among "baby boomer" women with OA by examining onset of OA, immediate and ongoing management, and related health outcomes. |
| Publications | Incident osteoarthritis associated with increased allied health services use in ‘baby boomer’ Australian women. Parkinson L, Moorin R, Peeters G, Byles J, Blyth F, Caughey G, Cunich M, Magin P, March L & Pond D. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 2016, 40(4); 356-61. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Health services utilization in older women: the impact of incident osteoarthritis.* Parkinson L, Moorin R, Peeters G, Caughey G, Byles J, Cunich M, Magin P, Pond D & Blyth F. International Data Linkage Conference, Vancouver, Canada 28 - 30 April 2014.*Lifestyle changes of women with osteoarthritis in Australia.*Ng N, Moorin R, Parkinson L, Brown W & Peeters G. 6th International Conference on Physical Activity and Public Health (ICPAPH), Bangkok, Thailand, 16-19 November 2016. |
| Project ID: A663 | **The association between menstrual symptoms and hypertension among young Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Hsin-Fang Chung - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Isabel Ferreira - School of Public Medicine, University of Wollongong
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, is a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease including stroke, coronary heart disease, and heart failure. Previous studies showed that around 20-40% of young Australian women experience menstrual symptoms including premenstrual syndromes (PMS) and pain, irregularity, and heavy bleeding during menstrual periods. Women with menstrual symptoms are more likely to have elevated levels of inflammatory markers, and chronic inflammation might lead to the development of hypertension. Therefore, this study aims to investigate whether menstrual symptoms are associated with hypertension in young Australian women. |
| Publications | The association between menstrual symptoms and hypertension among young women: A prospective longitudinal study. Chung HF, Ferreira I & Mishra GD. *Maturitas*, 2021, 143; 17-24. |

### Social factors in health and wellbeing

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| Project ID: A719 | **A qualitative investigation into women’s caring responsibilities.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Ryan Tuckerman - Research Centre for Gender, Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle
* Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Jacqueline Coombe - Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This project explored the experiences of women providing care and support to others. Specifically, this project examined the experiences of women who provide care for their children and other adults simultaneously, the experiences of women who both provide and require care from others, and the experiences of women returning to paid work after having children. This project analysed free text comments provided by ALSWH participants to examine these experiences. |
| Publications | ‘I can be a mum or a professional, but not both’: What women say about their experiences of juggling paid employment with motherhood. Coombe J, Loxton D, Tooth L & Byles J. *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, 2019, 54(3); 305-322. |

### Mental health

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| Project ID: A645 | **Understanding the interactions among psychological and emotional wellbeing, high BMI and pregnancy** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Jane Fisher - School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
* Dr Sara Holton - Jean Hailes Research Unit, Monash University
* Dr Thach Tran - School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Hau Nguyen - Monash University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Almost 45% of women of reproductive age in Australia are either overweight or obese. Maternal obesity before, during and after pregnancy is a serious health problem for women and their children. Despite extensive knowledge of the physical health risks of obesity during pregnancy, little is known about the psychological and emotional implications. The contribution of psychosocial factors to the mental health outcomes of women with high BMI during pregnancy is also not well understood. This study will investigate the interactions among psychological and emotional wellbeing, high BMI and pregnancy, and the contribution of psychosocial factors. |
| Publications | Pre-pregnancy body mass index and the risk of antenatal depression and anxiety. Holton S, Fisher J, Nguyen H, Brown WJ & Tran T. *Women and Birth*, 2019, 32(6); e508-e514. |
| Project ID: A493B | **How does clustering of risk factors relate to indicators of well-being and mental health?** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Gregore Mielke - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
* Dr Shelley Keating - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Publications | Changes in smoking, drinking, overweight and physical inactivity in young Australian women 1996-2013. Powers J, Loxton D, Anderson A, Dobson A, Mishra G, Hockey R & Brown W. *Health Promotion Journal of Australia*, 2017, 28(3); 255-259. |
| Project ID: A609A | **The impact of poor mental health on health care costs in the perinatal period** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Catherine Chojenta - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Clare Collins - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Michael Martin - School of Finance, Australian National University
* Dr Jananie William - School of Finance, Australian National University
* Dr Melinda Hutchesson - The University of Newcastle
* Dr Megan Rollo - The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This project examined health care costs for women in the perinatal period and in particular whether a history of poor mental health increased these costs. The project linked data from a range of sources including Perinatal Data Collection, Admitted Patient Data Collection, Medicare Benefits Scheme, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme along with self-reported survey data. Both public and private health care systems were being examined. |
| Publications | The impact of a history of poor mental health on health care costs in the perinatal period. Chojenta C, William J, Martin M, Byles J & Loxton D. *Archives of Women's Mental Health*, 2018, (4); 467-473. |
| Conference / Presentations | *The impact of poor mental health on health care costs in the perinatal period.* Chojenta C. International Marce Society Conference, Melbourne, Vic, 27-29 September 2016.*The impact of a history of poor mental health on health care costs in the perinatal period.* Chojenta C.2018 Taipai Medical University-University of Newcastle Joint Symposium of Recent Advances in Women's Health, Taipei, Taiwan, 13-14 April 2018. |

### Weight, nutrition and physical activity

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| Project ID: A521C | **Dietary intake of women with disordered eating compared to those without disordered eating - longitudinal data** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Leanne Brown - The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Clare Collins - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Alexis Hure - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Michelle Blumfield - Faculty of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences, Monash University
* Deanne Harris - Hunter New England Health
* Dr Miriam Grotowski - Department of Rural Health, The University of Newcastle
* Chelsea Carle - School of Health Sciences, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Jennifer Baldwin - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | This study investigated the dietary intakes of women with disordered eating from the 1973-78 cohort of the ALSWH. A cross-sectional analysis of food frequency data from the 1973-78 cohort at Survey 3 in 2003 was compared to dietary intakes for those with and without disordered eating with data from Survey 5 in 2009. Macro and micronutrient intakes were compared to the Nutrient Reference Values for Australia and New Zealand. The study also examined whether there are differences in dietary intakes in urban compared to non-urban women with disordered eating.  |
| Conference Presentations | *A six-year follow-up of women with restrictive eating in the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (poster presentation).* Carle C, Brown L, Mishra G, Grotowski M & Hure A. University of Newcastle, School of Health Sciences Research Day, Newcastle, NSW, 30 June.*A six-year follow-up of women with restrictive eating in the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health.* Carle C, Brown L, Mishra G, Grotowski M & Hure A. Australian Society for Medical Research Newcastle Satellite Scientific Meeting, Newcastle, NSW, 2 June 2017. |
| Project ID: A521A | **Dietary intake of women with disordered eating compared to those without disordered eating** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Leanne Brown - The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Clare Collins - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Alexis Hure - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Michelle Blumfield - Faculty of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences, Monash University
* Deanne Harris - Hunter New England Health
* Dr Miriam Grotowski - Department of Rural Health, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | This study investigated the dietary intakes of women with disordered eating from the 1973-78 cohort of the ALSWH. A cross-sectional analysis of food frequency data from the 1973-78 cohort at survey 3 in 2003 compared dietary intakes for those with and without disordered eating. Macro and micronutrient intakes were compared to the Nutrient Reference Values for Australia and New Zealand.  |

### Health service use and systems

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| Project ID: A594 | **The value of continuity of care in Australian general practice** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Michael Wright - Health Economics Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation, University Technology Sydney
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Jane Hall - Centre for Health Economic Research and Evaluation, University Technology Sydney
* Prof Kees Van Gool - Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation, University Technology Sydney
* Prof Marion Haas - Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation, University Technology Sydney
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Continuity of care is seen as a cornerstone of high‑quality primary health care. In Australia, most primary health care is delivered in general practices. The aim of this study is to explore the relationship between continuity of care with a general practitioner (GP) or general practice, and health care quality and health care outcomes. In the first instance, the study will measure levels of continuity of care with a GP and with a general practice in the ALSWH survey population, and identify factors associated with predicting the likelihood of a woman receiving high levels of primary care with a single provider or a single practice. Secondly, the study will examine whether greater continuity delivers higher quality care and better health outcomes in terms of disease prevention, medication compliance, use of health services, management of (chronic) disease and decreased health costs. By better understanding the relationship between continuity of care (at provider and practice level), and health outcomes, patients can be encouraged to seek care that maximises health, and policy makers can potentially encourage health maximising and cost‑effective behaviour. |
| Conference Presentations | *Changing continuity of care for Australian women.* Wright M, Hall J, van Gool K & Haas M. ALSWH Scientific Meeting 2016, Newcastle, NSW, 4 - 5 May 2016.*From continuity to fragmentation to integrated Australian general practice.* Wright M, Hall J, van Gool K & Haas M. International Conference on Integrated Care Conference, Barcelona, Spain, 23 - 25 May 2016.*Continuity of care without patient enrolment*. Wright M. Emerging Health Policy Research Conference, Sydney, NSW, 13 July 2016.*Changing continuity of care in Australian general practice*. Wright M, Hall J, van Gool K & Haas M. Australian Health Economics Society Conference, Fremantle, WA, 27 - 28 September 2016.*Changing continuity of care in Australian general practice*.Wright M, Hall J, van Gool K & Haas M. GP16- RACGP National Conference, Perth, WA, 29 September - 1 October 2016.*The association between continuity of care and mammography rates.* Wright M. Australian Health Economics Society Conference, Sydney, NSW, 21 September 2017.*Continuity of care associated with improved preventative care: Evidence from an Australian cohort study.* Wright M. GP17- RACGP Annual Scientific Conference, Sydney, NSW, 26 October 2017.*The association between continuity of care and mammography rates.* Wright M. Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand Conference, Gold Coast, Qld, 1 November 2017.*The association between continuity of care and cancer screening: Australian longitudinal study*. Wright M, Hall J, Haas M, van Gool K & Yu S. Society of Academic Primary Care Annual Scientific Meeting, London, England, 11 July 2018.*The relationship between continuity of care and cervical cancer screening.* Wright M, Hall J, Haas M, van Gool K & Yu S. Australian Health Economics Society Conference, Hobart, Tas, 25 September 2018.*Personal and site continuity of care in Australian general practice*. Wright M. GP18, RACGP National Scientific Conference, Gold Coast, Qld, 11 October 2018. |
| Project ID: A712 | **Analyses of longitudinal data to investigate populations using MBS after-hours services** |
| Lead Investigator | * Jason Brandrup - Health Analytics Branch, Australian Government Department of Health
 |
| Other collaborators | * Nicholas McNulty - Health Analytics Branch, Australian Government Department of Health
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | There has been rapid growth in the use of Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) urgent after-hours items for several years. Data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (ALSWH) and the MBS will be used to examine the characteristics of populations using MBS after-hours items and any changes in these characteristics since the 2010-11 financial year. Knowing the users of these services will inform policy and help ensure that the needs of these groups are being met in the most appropriate and cost‑effective way. |
| Project ID: A750 | **Do access, quality and cost of GP services influence a patient’s decision to visit ED?** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Anton Pak - Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine, James Cook University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Brenda Gannon - Centre for Business and Economics of Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Pravin Trivedi - School of Economics, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | This project addresses a problem ‘the growing number of avoidable or potentially preventable emergency department (ED) presentations’ that has been regarded as an important issue in the public health system. The objective of this applied research project is to investigate whether the access to general practitioners (GP), quality of GP services, and cost of primary care influence a patient’s decision to visit ED. We investigate why patients who are ‘less urgent’ and can potentially be treated in primary care present to ED. |
| Publications | Do access, quality and cost of general practice affect emergency department use? Pak A & Gannon B. *Health Policy*, 2021, 125(4): 504-511. |
| Project ID: A792 | **Physical activity, sitting time and BMI: Relationships with health care services, medicines, and health costs over 20 years in young and mid-age Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Grace Gomes - Department of Gerontology, Federal University of Sao Carlos, Brazil
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Gregore Mielke - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
* Dr Jamile Sanches Codogno - Sao Paulo State University, Brazil
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Few studies have examined relationships between physical activity (PA) during mid-age and health costs in women. The aim of this study was to investigate associations between PA levels and trajectories over 12 years with medical and pharmaceutical costs in mid-age Australian women. Data from 6,953 participants in the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (1946-51 cohort were analysed in 2019. PA was self-reported in 2001 (50-55y), 2007 (56-61y) and 2013 (62-67y). PA data were linked with 2013-2015 data from the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Quantile regression was used to examine associations between PA patterns [always active, increasers, decreasers, fluctuaters or always inactive (reference)] with these medical and pharmaceutical costs. Among women who were consistently inactive (< 500 MET.minutes/week) in 2001, 2007 and 2013, median MBS and PBS costs (2013 to 2015) were AUD4,261 and AUD1,850, respectively. Those costs were AUD1,728 (95%CI:443-3013) and AUD578 (95%CI: 426-729) lower among women who were consistently active in 2001, 2007 and 2013 than among those who were always inactive. PBS costs were also lower in women who were active at only one survey (AUD205; 95%CI: 49-360), and in those whose PA increased between 2001 and 2013 (AUD388; 95%CI:232-545). Conclusion: Maintaining active PA status was associated with 40% lower MBS and 30% lower PBS costs over three years in Australian women. Helping women to remain active in mid-life could result in considerable savings for both women and the Australian government. |
| Publications | Twelve-year trajectories of physical activity and health costs in mid-age Australian women. Gomes GAO, Codogno J, Brown W & Mielke G. *International Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*, 2020, 17(101); 1-9. |
| Project ID: A101A | **Change in health status and health care use for women who have and have not had health assessments.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Catherine Chojenta - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Meredith Tavener - School of Medicine and Public Health, Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle
* Prof Kichu Nair - School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Tazeen Majeed - School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This project has received NHMRC Project Grant funding to evaluate the uptake, outcomes and costs of the 75+ Health Assessment, part of the Enhanced Primary Care Items introduced to Medicare in November 1999. Data collected via ALSWH linked to Medicare data will be used to examine patterns of use of the 75+ health assessment items, outcomes and associated health care use and costs. Advanced statistical techniques such as propensity score methods will be used to assess health outcomes associated with use of the 75+ items to compare women who do and do not have assessments in terms of health-related quality of life, admission to residential aged care and mortality. |
| Publications | Uptake, prevalence and predictors of first-time use for the 75+ Health Assessment Scheme. Dolja-Gore X, Tavener M, Majeed T, Nair BR & Byles JE. *Australian Journal of Primary Health*, 2017, 23(5); 476-481.Patterns of Geriatric Health Assessment use among community dwelling older Australian women over a 14-year period. Majeed T, Dolja-Gore X, Tavener M, Nair BR, Chojenta C & Byles JE. *Journal of Health Services Research and Policy*, 2019, 24(2); 100-107.Estimating the effect of health assessments on mortality, physical functioning and health care utilisation for women aged 75 years and older. Dolja-Gore X, Byles JE, Tavener MA, Chojenta CL, Majeed T, Nair BR & Mishra GD. *PLOS ONE*, 2021, 16(4); e0249207. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Estimating the effect of health assessments on physical functioning and mortality for women aged 75 years and older*. Dolja-Gore X. Australasian Epidemiological Association (AEA) 23rd Annual Scientific Meeting, Canberra, ACT, 14 - 16 September 2016.*Uptake and effectiveness of preventive health assessments: A study of 11,726 older Australian women.* Byles J, Dolja-Gore X, Nair K, Tavener M, Chojenta C & Mishra G. 21st IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, San Francisco, United States of America, 23-27 July 2017.*Integrating prevention in policy (Australian perspective)*. Byles J. 11th IAGG Asia/Oceania Regional Congress 2019, Taipei, Taiwan, 23-27 October 2019. |
| Project ID: A222 | **Prescribed drug utilisation in women before, during and after pregnancy.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * A/Prof Mark McEvoy - La Trobe Rural Health School, La Trobe University
* Dr Milton Hasnat - School of Medicine & Public Health, The University of Newcastle
* Blessing Akombi - The University of Newcastle
* Simon McElduff - School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This study aimed to determine the prevalence and patterns of prescribed medication use before, during and after pregnancy as little is known about the use of prescribed medications among pregnant women. Data from the ALSWH were linked with Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data to determine patterns of prescribed medications. From the 1973-78 cohort (aged 27-32) 535 women were selected who had given birth to a child in 2005. The project has completed all analysis and a paper submitted for peer review. Currently waiting on reviewer’s comments. |

### Ageing

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project ID: A637 | **The STEP consortium: Strategies for Early Prevention of falls in middle-aged adults** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Geeske Peeters - Radboud University Medical Centre (UMC), The Netherlands
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Natasja van Schoor - EMGO Institute, VU University Medical Center, The Netherlands
* Dr Rachel Cooper - MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing, University College London
* Prof Rose Anne Kenny - Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin
 |
| Liaison person | * A/Prof Leigh Tooth - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Falls are a well-known cause of injuries among those aged 65 years and older. Approximately 1 in 3 older adults have a fall at least once per year. Most research has focused on falls in older adults (i.e. over the age of 65), however little attention has been given to the increased risk of falls in middle-aged adults, which may guide earlier intervention and subsequently a reduction in falls later in life. The aim is to examine risk factors of falls in middle-aged adults using data from four existing cohort studies from Australia, Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. |
| Publications | Should prevention of falls start earlier? Co-ordinated analyses of harmonised data on falls in middle-aged adults across four population-based cohort studies. Peeters G, van Schoor NM, Cooper R, Tooth L & Kenny RA. *PLoS ONE*, 2018, 13(8); e0201989.A comprehensive assessment of risk factors for falls in middle-aged adults: Co-ordinated analyses of cohort studies in four countries. Peeters G, Cooper R, Tooth L, van Schoor NM & Kenny RA. *Osteoporosis International*, 2019, 30(10); 2099-2117. |
| Conference / Presentations | *The prevalence of falls in middle-aged adults: Results from co-ordinated analyses of harmonised data from four population-based cohort studies.* Peeters G, van Schoor NM, Cooper R, Tooth L, Kenny RA. Falls Frailty Bone Health Conference, Dublin, Ireland, 9 - 10 November 2017.*Prevalentie van vallen bij volwassenen van middelbare leeftijd: Moeten preventieve maatregelen al voor de 65 beginnen?*.Peeters G, van Schoor N, Cooper R, Tooth L & Kenny RA. Geriatriedagen 2019, Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands, 6 - 7 February 2019. |
| Project ID: A707 | **Aged care funding in Australia: Who gets what?** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Serena Yu - University of Technology Sydney
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Thomas Longden - Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation, University of Technology Sydney
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The long‑life expectancy of an ageing Australian population poses significant demographic and fiscal challenges. In response to these challenges, the aged care sector has been subject to significant recent policy reform. To date there has been limited data to examine service demand and funding arrangements at the individual consumer level. This project uses rich longitudinal survey data linked to administrative data on both health and aged care services to investigate the cost of providing aged care services, and how it interacts with the provision of health care. |
| Publications | Waiting times in aged care: What matters? Yu S & Byles J. *Australasian Journal on Ageing*, 2020, 39(1); 48-55. |

# Appendix B: Substudies

## Current

|  |  |
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| Project ID: W091 | **Mothers and their Children's Health (MatCH) study - Phase I** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Sifan Cao - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Katrina Moss - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Hsiu-Wen Chan - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Colleen Loos - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Peter Sly - Centre for Children’s Health Research, The University of Queensland
* Prof Carol Bower – Telethon Institute for Child Health Research (TICHR), University of Western Australia
* A/Prof Kylie Hesketh – School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, Deakin University
* Prof Deborah Loxton – Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Richard Hockey - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* A/Prof Leigh Tooth - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Virginia Slaughter – School of Psychology, The University of Queensland
* Prof Ilona Koupil – Stockholm University & Karolinska Institute
* Prof Peter Davies – Centre for Children’s Health Research, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | The MatCH study aims to take a family-centred approach to advance understanding of child health and development in terms of all the children in a family unit, by investigating factors with regard to a) the history of maternal and family characteristics and b) their effects on the health and development of all the children in the family. The study combines detailed data from a national cohort of women with new survey data on their children to paint a picture of family health and health service use that is unparalleled, supporting a more integrated and targeted approach to the delivery of preventative and primary health care for all Australian families.Analysis of MatCH data continues, mainly under separate EoIs. From late 2021, MatCH data will be opened up to external collaborators to submit EoIs. There are eight current analysis projects using MatCH data: A735, A736A, A756, A774A, A804, A810, A822B and A837.  |
| Publications | MatCH (Mothers and their Children’s Health) Profile: offspring of the 1973-78 cohort of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’sHealth. Mishra GD, Moss K, Loos C, Dobson AJ, Davies PSW, Loxton D, Hesketh KD, Koupil I, Bower C, Sly P, & Tooth L. *Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*, 2018, 9(3); 351-375.Maternal preconception weight trajectories are associated with offspring’s childhood obesity. Adane A, Dobson A, Tooth L & Mishra G. *International Journal of Obesity*, 2018, 42(7); 1265-1274.Maternal preconception weight trajectories, pregnancy complications and offspring’s childhood physical and cognitive development. Adane A, Mishra G & Tooth L. *Journal of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease*, 2018, 9(6); 653-660.The role of offspring’s birthweight on the association between pre-pregnancy obesity and offspring’s childhood anthropometrics: A mediation analysis. Adane AA, Tooth L & Mishra G. *Journal of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease*, 2019, 10(5): 570-577. Which Australian women do not exclusively breastfeed to 6 months, and why? Moss KM, Dobson AJ, Tooth L & Mishra GD. *Journal of Human Lactation*, 2021, 37(2):390-402.Not all play equipment is created equal: Associations between equipment at home and children’s physical activity. Moss KM, Dobson AJ, Edwards KL, Hesketh KD, Chang Y-T & Mishra GD. *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*, 2019, 16(11):945-951.Maternal pre-pregnancy obesity and childhood physical and cognitive development of children: a systematic review. Adane AA, Mishra GD & Tooth LR. *International Journal of Obesity*, 2016, 40; 1608-1618.Diabetes in pregnancy and childhood cognitive development: A systematic review. Adane AA, Mishra GD & Tooth LR. *Pediatrics*, 2016, 137(5); e20154234.Associations between feeding practices in infancy and fruit and vegetable consumption in childhood. Moss KM, Dobson AJ, Tooth L & Mishra GD. *British Journal of Nutrition*, 2020,124(12): 1320-1328. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Understanding intergenerational health: Methodology of the Mothers and their Children’s Health Study.* Loos C. Australasian Epidemiological Association (AEA) Annual Scientific Meeting 2019, Brisbane, QLD, 23-25 October 2019.*Mothers and their Children’s Health (MatCH) study: Is pregnancy a sensitive period?* Moss K. Australasian Epidemiological Association (AEA) Annual Scientific Meeting 2019, Brisbane, QLD, 23-25 October 2019.*Understanding maternal preconception weight trajectories and child outcomes using a cohort-within-cohort study design*. Tooth L. Australasian Epidemiological Association (AEA) Annual Scientific Meeting 2019, Brisbane, QLD, 23-25 October 2019.*A new method for investigating associations between play equipment and physical activity*. Moss K. Australasian Epidemiological Association (AEA) Annual Scientific Meeting 2019, Brisbane, QLD, 23-25 October 2019. |
| Project ID: W096 | **Women's constrained choices: How does it affect women?** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Melissa Johnstone - Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Christina Lee - School of Psychology, The University of Queensland
* Prof Jayne Lucke - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Given the impact that childbearing has on Australian women’s working careers, compared to women in other countries, there is a need to understand the extent to which women feel they are active agents in their work-family choices, and how important this is for their well-being. Through semi-structured interviews with a subsample of women, this research aims to understand how much women see themselves as active agents in their work-family decision making, the importance of agency for their well-being, and the relative influence of policy and other sociodemographic factors on life choices for women. This will advance knowledge in work-family literature, women’s life course development, and contribute to the evidence-base for policies that support the needs of women. |
| Publications | ‘It’s been a bit of a rollercoaster: Australian women’s difficulties and coping strategies. Lucke J & Johnstone M. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, 2021, 42(1): 46-56. |
| Project ID: W097 | **Chronic disease management and outcomes for women with diabetes**. |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* A/Prof Julia Lowe – Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Toronto, Canada
* Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Alexis Hure - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof John Attia – School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
* A/Prof Huy Tran -Pathology North, New South Wales Health Pathology
* Dr Margaret Lynch – Research Innovation and Partnerships, Hunter New England Local Health District
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Diabetes is a global health issue. If not well managed, it can result in severe complications, increased hospitalisations and premature death. Tight glucose control is a primary goal for diabetes management. This project aims to understand the predictors of good glucose control for Australian women (particularly older women). Self-report survey data will be linked to administrative sources (MBS, PBS, hospital), and newly collected biological data. By understanding the collective impact, it will inform better management of this common chronic condition in older age. |
| Project ID: W100 | **Reliability of Intimate Partner Violence measures: A qualitative investigation.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Emma Byrnes – Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Isabelle Barnes – Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Liana Green – Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Natalie Townsend – Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Amy Anderson – Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Jacqueline Coombe – Melbourne School of Global and Population Health, The University of Melbourne
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Women who have lived with domestic violence were found to respond inconsistently to questions that ask about their experiences of violence, that is, responding ‘no’ to questions that ask if they have ever lived with domestic violence after previously indicating that they had these experiences. Survey data showed that women who responded inconsistently to questions about domestic violence were most similar on demographic and health measures to those who consistently reported domestic violence. Follow up interviews with over 100 women indicated that women rarely if ever reported domestic violence where this had not occurred but did reply that they had never had experiences of violence when they had actually lived with a violent partner. Results of the qualitative interview analysis showed that asking questions about violence involves an emotional cost and the emotional state at the time of asking played a key factor in women's decisions to disclose domestic violence. |
| Publications | Longitudinal inconsistency in responses to survey items that ask women about intimate partner violence. Loxton D, Powers J, Townsend N, Harris ML & Forder P. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, 2019, 19(1); 201.Consistency and inconsistency of young women’s reporting of intimate partner violence in a population-based study. Rowlands IJ, Holder C, Forder PA, Hegarty K, Dobson AJ & Loxton D. *Violence Against Women*, 2021, 27(3-4): 359-377. |
| Project ID: W103 | **M-PreM study: Reproductive factors, from menarche to premenopause, and the risk of cardiometabolic and respiratory conditions before menopause** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof David Handelsman - ANZAC Research Institute
* Prof Bu Yeap - Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, The University of Western Australia
* Prof Emmanuel Stamatakis - Charles Perkins Centre, The University of Sydney
* Prof Harold (David) McIntyre - Mater Clinical Unit, The University of Queensland
* Prof Shyamali Dharmage - Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne
* A/Prof Jenny Visser - Erasmus University Medical Centre
* Prof Jenny Doust - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Grant Montgomery - Institute for Molecular Biosciences, The University of Queensland
* Prof Isabel Ferreira - School of Public Medicine, University of Wollongong
* Dr Matthew Ahmadi - The University of Sydney
* Dr Hsin-Fang Chung - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Hsiu-Wen Chan - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Chronic conditions and poor health show marked sex differences in their prevalence and severity across the life course. Previous studies have typically focussed on risk factors for these conditions among postmenopausal women. This study will map the pathways between female reproductive factors, from the first period through to pregnancy and subfertility, and the risks of cardiometabolic and respiratory conditions and poor health among women in their 40s. This study will involve conducting a range of biomedical tests (body size measurements, cognitive test, handgrip strength, lung function), fitting a physical activity monitor, and collecting a blood sample to measure cardiometabolic and hormone markers and for biobanking.The M-PreM substudy is currently suspended due to the coronavirus outbreak in Sydney. Data collection will end by November 2021 at the latest. |
| Project ID: W102A | **Living beyond expectations: How older women demonstrate successful and healthy ageing** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Jennifer Holman – Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Deborah Loxton – Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Meredith Tavener – School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
* Emily Princehorn – Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Catherine Chojenta – Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Centenarians are a ‘model of ageing well’, having lived long and delayed the onset of disease and disability until much later in life.  With increasing longevity, larger numbers of people will live to 100. However, little is known about the experiences of people at this extreme old age, as few studies have included very old people and most do not have data from earlier life to put these late life experiences into a life course context.  Current participants of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health include an elite group of over 1,400 women who are already past their mid-90sm and who are likely to live to 100. In-depth interviews with a sample of these women will provide a rare opportunity to gain insights into the experience of extreme old age, and to contrast their current and retrospective views with the trajectories and circumstances presented by the quantitative and qualitative data collected by ALSWH since 1996, when the women were in their 70s.  The interviews will be framed by the new WHO healthy ageing framework and will focus on women's ability to do the things they want to do, and the balance between intrinsic capacity and functional support.  Interviews with women born 1946-51 will provide insight into the prospects for healthy ageing for women in this cohort.  |
| Conference / Presentations | *Ageing at very old ages - perspectives of women from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health*. Byles J.53rd AAG Conference, Byles J 18-20 November 2020. |
| Project ID: W104 | **Contraceptive choice for women with chronic disease: A qualitative approach** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Jayne Lucke – School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Jacqueline Coombe – Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne
* A/Prof Deborah Bateson – Family Planning NSW
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Unintended pregnancy remains high in developed countries despite access to high quality sexual and reproductive services. Some evidence exists that women with chronic diseases experience unintended pregnancy at significantly higher rates than women without chronic disease. For these women, unintended pregnancies are associated with serious adverse maternal and perinatal outcomes, including congenital abnormalities, pre-term labour, spontaneous abortion, and foetal death. Optimised preconception care and reproductive life planning is critical to the prevention of unintended pregnancies and reduction in pregnancy-related complications in women with chronic diseases. Little information exists in the Australian context. The aim of this project is to understand how women in their prime child-bearing years (and their partners) negotiate contraceptive decision-making and reproductive life planning in the context of chronic disease. |
| Project ID: W105 | **Genetic variants, Early Life exposures, and Longitudinal Endometriosis symptoms Study (GELLES)** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Ingrid Rowlands - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Jenny Doust - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Sally Mortlock – Institute for Molecular Biosciences, The University of Queensland
* Prof Grant Montgomery - Institute for Molecular Biosciences, The University of Queensland
* Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Richard Hockey - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Jayne Lucke - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Ellen Wessel - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Jayne Lucke - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Endometriosis is a complex disease with a poorly understood aetiology. There is some evidence that implicates various genetic factors in the aetiology of the disease. Limited epidemiologic data is available on the role of early life factors, particularly in utero exposures, and symptoms during adolescence in endometriosis development. The Genetic variants, Early Life exposures, and Longitudinal Endometriosis symptoms Study (GELLES) aims to identify genetic and early life factors that contribute to the development and progression of endometriosis. The outcomes of the study will assist in the prediction of endometriosis to facilitate earlier diagnosis for young women.  Pilot testing of the GELLES survey has been completed with non‑ALSWH women born between 1989 and 1995. A report has been drafted. The project is now awaiting ethics approval from the University of Newcastle. |

## Completed

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| Project ID: W068 | **Perinatal mental health: Psychosocial assessment, service utilisation and maternal and infant outcomes** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Marie-Paule Austin - Perinatal and Women's Mental Health, University of New South Wales
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Catherine Chojenta - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Amy Anderson - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Lucy Kocanda – The University of Newcastle
* A/Prof Kym Rae – School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Leanne Brown – The University of Newcastle
* Prof Jeanette Milgrom – The University of Melbourne
* Dr Nicole Reilly – University of Wollongong
* Dr Tracy Schumacher – Department of Rural Health, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This primary aim of this study was to evaluate the impact of a primary prevention, early intervention strategy (perinatal mental health assessment) on service utilisation and health outcomes of mothers in Australia, and to examine equity of access to this national population‑based initiative. It will provide an evidence-base from which resistance to routine depression screening and psychosocial assessment in the perinatal period can be addressed, with possible benefits for health services, the mother, infant, family and community. |
| Publications | Disparities in reported psychosocial assessment across public and private maternity settings: A national survey of women in Australia. Reilly N, Harris S, Loxton D, Chojenta C, Forder P, Milgrom J & Austin M-P. *BMC Public Health*, 2013, 13(632).Referral for management of emotional health issues during the perinatal period: Does mental health assessment make a difference? Reilly N, Harris S, Loxton D, Chojenta C, Forder P, Milgrom J & Austin M-P. *Birth: Issues in Perinatal Care.* 2013, 40(4); 297-306.History of pregnancy loss increases the risk of mental health problems in subsequent pregnancies but not in the postpartum. Chojenta C, Harris S, Reilly N, Forder P, Austin M-P & Loxton D. *PLoS One*, 2014, 9(4); e95038.The impact of routine assessment of past or current mental health on help-seeking in the perinatal period. Reilly N, Harris S, Loxton D, Chojenta C, Forder P & Austin M-P. *Women & Birth*, 2014, 27(4); e20-e27.Honesty and comfort levels in mothers when screened for perinatal depression and anxiety. Forder P, Rich J, Harris S, Chojenta C, Reilly N, Austin M-P & Loxton D. *Women and Birth*, 2020, 33(2); p. e142-e150. |
| Conference Presentations | *Adverse reproductive events and mental health and parenting outcomes*. Chojenta C & Harris S. International Biennial Congress of The Marce Society, Paris, France, 3 - 5 October 2012.*Intimate partner abuse and perinatal mental health.* Loxton D & Chojenta C. International Biennial Congress of The Marce Society, Paris, France, 3 - 5 October 2012.*Disparities in reported psychosocial assessment during pregnancy and the postnatal period: A national survey of women in Australia.*.Reilly N, Austin M-P, Loxton D, Chojenta C, Forder P & Milgrom J. International Biennial Congress of The Marce Society, Paris, France, 3 - 5 October 2012.*Disparities in reported psychosocial assessment across public and private maternity settings.* Reilly N, Harris S, Loxton D, Chojenta C, Forder P, Milgrom J & Austin M-P. PHAA 42nd Annual Conference, Melbourne, Vic 16  - 18 September 2013.*Referral for management of emotional health issues during the perinatal period: Does mental health assessment make a difference?* Reilly N, Harris S, Loxton D, Chojenta C, Forder P, Milgrom J & Austin M-P. PHAA 42nd Annual Conference, Melbourne, Vic 16 - 18 September 2013.*The impact of mental health assessment on help seeking during the perinatal period: A national survey of women in Australia*. Reilly N, Harris S, Loxton D, Chojenta C, Forder P, Milgrom J & Austin M-P. Australasian Marce Society Conference, Melbourne, Vic, 11 - 12 October 2013.*The issue of honesty during perinatal screening for depression and anxiety.* Forder P, Rich J, Harris S, Reilly N, Chojenta C, Austin M-P, Loxton D. Australasian Marce Society Conference, Melbourne, Vic, 11 - 12 October 2013.*Prevention and early intervention for perinatal mental health: An evaluation of outcomes for women who give birth in Australia. R*eilly N, Loxton D, Forder P, Harris S, Chojenta C, Milgrom J & Austin M-P. Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand (HSRAANZ), 9th Biennial Health Services and Policy Research Conference, Melbourne, Vic, 7 - 9 December 2015.*Prevention and early intervention for perinatal mental health: An evaluation of outcomes for women who give birth in Australia.* Reilly N, Loxton D, Forder P, Harris S, Chojenta C, Milgrom J & Austin MP. ALSWH Scientific Meeting 2016, Newcastle, NSW, 4 - 5 May 2016.*Breastfeeding duration and reasons for cessation in an Australian longitudinal cohort*. Kocanda L, Brown L, Schumacher T, Rae K & Chojenta C. Dietitians Association of Australia 35th National Conference, Sydney, NSW, 17-19 May 2018. |

# Appendix C: Student projects

## Current

### Reproductive health

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project ID: A737 | **The association of lifestyle factors with longitudinal weight gain in women with and without polycystic ovary syndrome**  |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Lisa Moran - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Mamaru Awoke - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Allison Hodge - Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria
* A/Prof Arul Earnest - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Prof Helena Teede - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Anju Joham - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Cate Bailey - Monash Centre for Health, Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Polycystic ovary syndrome is a condition affecting up to 1 in 5 reproductive-aged women associated with reproductive, metabolic and psychological complications. Obesity worsens the prevalence and features of PCOS, and women with PCOS have been shown to have a higher prevalence of obesity and greater weight gain over time compared to women without PCOS. Women with PCOS have also been shown to have higher energy intake, be less physically active and sit for longer, however it is not known how much these differences in lifestyle factors contribute to the differences in obesity.  |
| Conference / Presentations | *Longitudinal weight gain and lifestyle factors in women with and without polycystic ovary syndrome (Oral presentation)*. Awoke MA, Ernest A, Joham A, Hodge A, Brown W, Teede H & Moran L. Androgen Excess and PCOS Society (AE-PCOS), 18th Annual Meeting (Virtual), 7-8 November 2020.*Longitudinal weight gain and lifestyle factors in women with and without polycystic ovary syndrome (e-poster presentation).* Awoke MA, Ernest A, Joham A, Hodge A, Brown W, Teede H & Moran L. The Austral-Asia Obesity Research Update (ANZOS) 15-16 October 2020.*Longitudinal weight gain and lifestyle factors in women with and without polycystic ovary syndrome (e-poster presentation)*. Awoke MA, Ernest A, Joham A, Hodge A, Brown W, Teede H & Moran L. Nutrition Society of Australia (NSA) Virtual Conference, 3-4 December 2020.*Longitudinal weight gain and lifestyle factors in women with and without polycystic ovary syndrome (e-Poster presentation)*. Awoke MA, Ernest A, Joham A, Hodge A, Brown W, Teede H, & Moran LJ. Endocrine Society Annual Meeting, 20-23 March 2021.*Longitudinal weight gain and lifestyle factors in women with and without polycystic ovary syndrome (oral presentation)*. Awoke MA, Ernest A, Joham A, Hodge A, Brown W, Teede H, & Moran LJ. World Congress of Epidemiology, 3-6 September 2021. |
| Project ID: A743 | **Adverse pregnancy outcomes among women in Australia** |
| Lead Investigator | * Habtamu Bizuayehu - The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Catherine Chojenta - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Melissa Harris - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Adverse pregnancy outcomes have been associated with various socio-demographic factors, life events, and health conditions, such as hypertension, diabetes, and asthma. About a quarter (25.8%) of pregnancies in Australia end with any adverse pregnancy outcomes, including preterm birth (8.7%), low birth weight (6.5%), caesarean section (33%), labour induction (29%), and instrumental delivery (11% - 12%), macrosomia (9.1% in gestational diabetic and 11.9% non-diabetic pregnancies). This study will generate evidence about the occurrence, recurrence, trajectory and geospatial distribution of adverse pregnancy outcomes among women in Australia. This study will assist with resource planning, clinical decision making, explaining geographic distribution and momentum/course of adverse pregnancy outcomes during the active reproductive years. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Preterm birth and its biopsychosocial predictors: A national prospective cohort study in Australia*. Bizuayehu HM, Harris ML, Chojenta C, Forder PM & Loxton D. Australian Public Health Conference 2020, Virtual Conference, 19-30 October 2020.*Low birth weight rate and predictors: A prospective study using the Australian Longtudinal Study on Women’s Health*. Bizuayehu HM, Harris ML, Chojenta C, Forder PM & Loxton D Center for African Research, Engagement and Partnerships (CARE-P) and African Postgraduate Student Association (APSA) Conference, Online, 16 October. |
| Project ID: A807 | **Trajectories of psychological wellbeing in women with endometriosis** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Kerry Sherman - Macquarie University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Alissa Beath - Macquarie University
* Carla Sullivan-Myers – Macquarie University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Despite a recent rapid increase in research concerning aetiology and treatment of endometriosis, there has been limited focus on understanding the experiences of women diagnosed with this condition. In particular there is a dearth of research investigating the psychological impact of endometriosis over time. Prior analyses of data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health has identified a high prevalence of psychological distress amongst women with endometriosis. Yet, no study to date has investigated psychological distress over time. As endometriosis is a chronic and cyclical condition, it is expected that as the condition progresses or changes, so too will the psychological health of those affected. Understanding how psychological distress changes over time, and describing the potential patterns of distress, will enable us to understand the experiences of this population more thoroughly. To address this gap in the literature, we aim to describe trajectories of psychological distress in women with endometriosis who have participated in the ALSWH. |
| Project ID: A810 | **Incidence and predictors of Neonatal Near Miss, and its impact on parenting and child health outcomes in Australia** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Tahir Ahmen Hassen- Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Catherine Chojenta - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Nick Egan - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Koert de Waal - Department of Neonatology John Hunter Children’s Hospital
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The concept of neonatal near miss (NNM), a condition where a newborn has nearly died but survived, has been proposed as a tool for assessment of quality of care in neonates who suffered any life‑threatening condition. Research from other settings indicates that different factors contribute to the incidence of NNM and children with NNM history are at risk of encountering various health and health related problems during their course of life. Research also has indicated that having a high‑risk infant poses significant family, societal and economic impacts; although this relationship is yet to be investigated with NNM. This project will align these areas of research by investigating the incidence and predictors of NNM, and its impact on parenting and child health outcomes. |
| Publications | Determinants of neonatal near miss in Australia: A multilevel analysis. Hassen TA, Chojenta C, Egan N & Loxton D. *Early Human Development*, 2021, 156; 105343.The association between the five-m Apgar score and neurodevelopmental outcomes among children aged 8-66 months in Australia. Hassen TA, Chojenta C, Egan N & Loxton D. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2021, 18(12); 6450. |
| Project ID: A814 | **Menstrual irregularity as a predictor of metabolic disease and adverse reproductive health outcomes** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Anju Joham - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Sylvia Kiconco, Monash University
* A/Prof Arul Earnest - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Prof Helena Teede - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Given that menstrual irregularity underpins polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and its diagnosis, it may be an early indicator for not only PCOS, but also metabolic syndrome, infertility, adverse pregnancy outcomes and early menopause. However, the link between menstrual irregularities and metabolic or adverse reproductive health outcomes remains unclear especially in the Australian population. A manuscript has been drafted and is pending publication. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Menstrual regularity as a predictor for heart disease and diabetes: findings from a cohort study*. Kiconco S. Australian Public Health (PHAA) Conference 2021, Canberra, ACT, 23-24 September 2021. |
| Project ID: A857 | **Young Australian women’s experiences of endometriosis: A thematic analysis of longitudinal survey data** |
| Lead Investigator | * Sophie Callen - The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Ingrid Rowlands - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Melissa Johnstone - Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Many women with endometriosis describe significant delay in their diagnosis of endometriosis, which can negatively impact on their social, psychological, and physical wellbeing. However, the experiences of young women (<25 years) have been under-represented in the endometriosis research. The present study will address a unique gap in the literature, by drawing on longitudinal qualitative data to explore the experiences of the same women over time. Drawing on a national cohort of young women will provide an insight into a wider range of Australian women's experiences with endometriosis. |
| Project ID: A745 | **Associations of menstrual problems and endometriosis with adverse pregnancy outcomes** |
| Lead Investigator | * Sifan Cao - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Mark Jones - Faculty of Health Sciences & Medicine, Bond University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Endometriosis affects 2-17% women of reproductive age with severe period pain, often leading to infertility. Adverse pregnancy events like miscarriage, gestational diabetes, hypertension during pregnancy, preterm birth and low birth weight are seen in women with endometriosis after they become pregnant. A similar situation exists in women with menstrual problems. This project explores the role of menstrual problems and endometriosis on adverse pregnancy outcomes. It also investigates whether endometriosis mediates the association between menstrual problems and adverse pregnancy outcomes. |
| Publications | History of premenstrual syndrome and development of postpartum depression: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Cao S, Jones M, Tooth L & Mishra GD. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, 2020, 121; 82-90.Does premenstrual syndrome before pregnancy increase the risk of postpartum depression? Findings from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health. Cao S, Jones M, Tooth L & Mishra G. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 2021, 279; 143-148.Association between preconception cannabis use and risk of postpartum depression: Findings from an Australian longitudinal cohort. Cao S, Jones M, Tooth L & Mishra GD. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 2021, 226; 108860. |
| Conference / Presentations | *The effect of premenstrual syndrome on postpartum depression: A systematic review and meta-analysis.* Cao S. 2018 Clinical and Public Health Postgraduate Symposium, Herston, Qld 22 - 23 November 2018.*Does premenstrual syndrome before pregnancy increase the risk of postpartum depression? Findings from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health (ALSWH)*. Cao S, Jones M, Tooth L & Mishra G. Health Conference 2020, Virtual, 13-27 May 2020. |

### Weight, nutrition and physical activity

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| --- | --- |
| Project ID: A726 | **Assessing patterns of change in lifestyle behaviours following birth** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Lisa Moran - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Allison Hodge - Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria
* A/Prof Arul Earnest - Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
* Prof Helena Teede - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Sanjeeva Ranasinha - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Jacqueline Boyle - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Briony Hill - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Prof Helen Skouteris - Health and Social Care Unit, Monash University
* Dr Siew Lim - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation (MCHRI), Monash University
* Maureen Makama - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation (MCHRI), Monash University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Up to 1 in 2 Australian women are overweight and obese which can be worsened by excessive weight gain during pregnancy and after childbirth. Postpartum weight retention is common and fewer than 50% of women are estimated to return to their pre-pregnancy weight. Changes in diet and physical activity after childbirth can contribute to parity-related weight gain. However, it is not known if specific groups of women (e.g., based on factors such as age, health status, education, income, occupation and ethnicity) have particular difficulties in following healthy lifestyle behaviours, that may in turn be associated with greater parity-related weight gain. Data analysis is complete, the manuscript has been drafted and is being prepared for submission. It is anticipated the manuscript will be accepted by the end of 2021. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Patterns of change in lifestyle behaviours following childbirth (e-poster presentation)*. Makama M, Ernest A, Lim S, Hill B, Skouteris H, Teede H, Boyle J, Hodge A & Moran L. The Austral-Asia Obesity Research Update (ANZOS), 15-16 October 2020.*Patterns of change in lifestyle behaviours following childbirth oral presentation)*. Makama M, Ernest A, Lim S, Hill B, Skouteris H, Teede H, Boyle J, Hodge A & Moran L. Nutrition Society of Australia (NSA) Virtual Conference, 3-4 December 2020.*Accessing changes in lifestyle behaviours after birth (Rapid fire oral presentation).* Makama M, Ernest A, Lim S, Hill B, Skouteris H, Teede H, Boyle J, Hodge A & Moran L. Inaugural conference of the Health in Preconception, Pregnancy and Postpartum (HiPPP) Early- and Mid-career Researcher Collective (EMR-C). (Online), 3 December 2020. |
| Project ID: A731 | **Patterns in long term weight change and the incidence of adverse urogynaecological health issues in middle aged Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Gabrielle Menolotto - University of Southern Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
* Dr Enamul Kabir - University of Southern Queensland
* Dr Rachel King - University of Southern Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | This project explores the relationship between long-term weight change and the incidence of urogynaecological health issues in middle aged Australian women. Obesity is a risk factor for adverse urogynaecological conditions including forms of urinary incontinence, urinary tract infection, genital prolapse, menstrual irregularity and more. In severe cases, surgical interventions are undertaken. Surgical alternatives include weight loss interventions, however research into long-term weight change remains underexplored. Middle age is a time of hormonal change for many women and by using this cohort we will explore the association between prolonged weight change and the incidence of urogynaecological symptoms, urogynaecological surgeries and menopause. |
| Project ID: A728 | **Understanding the relationships between weight gain, physical activity and indicators of women's reproductive health** |
| Lead Investigator | * Gabriela Mena - The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
* Dr Gregore Mielke - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | The purpose of this research is to better understand the relationships between weight gain, physical activity and aspects of young women's reproductive health, with a focus on the potential effects of physical activity and menstrual irregularities on weight-reproductive health relationships. We will examine relationships between weight gain and indicators of reproductive health in young women (ability to have children, use of in vitro fertilisation (IVF), use of fertility hormones, PCOS, endometriosis etc). As women gain weight, they may develop menstrual irregularities that are precursors to infertility. However, physical activity may modify the relationship between weight gain and these health outcomes. The results will inform the development of practices which may help to establish better reproductive health in young women. |
| Publications | Do physical activity, sitting time, and body mass index affect fertility over a 15 year period in women? Data from a large population-based cohort study. Mena GP, Mielke GI & Brown WJ. *Human Reproduction*, 2020, 35(3): 676-683.Do physical activity, sitting time and body mass index affect fertility over a 15-year period in women? Data from a large population-based cohort study. Mena GP, Mielke GI & Brown WJ. *Human Reproduction*, 2020, 35(3); 676-683.Prospective associations between physical activity and BMI with irregular periods and heavy menstrual bleeding in a large cohort of Australian women. Mena GP, Mielke GI & Brown W. *Human Reproduction*, 2021, 36(6); 1481 -1491. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Do physical activity and sitting time affect associations between BMI and fertility in women? Data from a large population-based cohort study.* Mena GP, Mielke GI & Brown WJ. The 2019 ASICS Sports Medicine Australia (SMA) Conference, Sunshine Coast, QLD 23 - 26 October 2019.*Do physical activity and sitting time affect associations between BMI and fertility in women? Data from a large population-based cohort study.* Mena GP, Mielke GI & Brown WJ. People, Partnership, Performance HMNS Postgraduate Conference, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Qld, 21 October 2019.*Longitudinal associations between physical activity and BMI with menstrual symptoms: Data from a large population-based cohort study*. Mena GP, Mielke GI & Brown WJ. Queensland Women's Health Forum 2021, Brisbane, QLD, 27-28 May 2021.*High levels of physical activity are associated with a lower occurrence of heavy menstrual bleeding: Data from a large population-based cohort study*. Mena GP, Mielke GI & Brown WJ. 2021 Sports Medicine Australia (SMA) Conference, Melbourne, VIC, 6-9 October 2021. |
| Project ID: A828 | **Predictive ability of different diet quality indices on subsequent risk of Non-communicable Disease (Study 1)** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Alexis Hure - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Meredith Tavener - School of Medicine and Public Health, Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle
* Allison Hodge - Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria
* Prof Erica James - School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
* Hlaing Hlaing Hlaing – The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Since a single nutrient approach was considered to be insufficient for detecting diet-disease associations, overall diet quality and pattern analysis, measuring a range of foods, food groups, and/or nutrients has emerged. Diet quality has received much attention as a predictor of non-communicable disease (NCD) mortality. However, inadequate work currently exists regarding the investigation of unhealthy diet and multimorbidity, defined as the presence of two or more chronic medical conditions. This project aims to investigate the predictive ability of diet quality on NCD mortality (including multimorbidity) among a representative sample of women from the ALSWH 1946-51 cohort. |
| Project ID: A829 | **Comparison of the predictive association between different diet quality indices and NCD mortality and multimorbidity (Study 2)** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Alexis Hure - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Meredith Tavener - School of Medicine and Public Health, Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle
* Prof Erica James - School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
* Hlaing Hlaing Hlaing - The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Unhealthy diet has been identified as a major modifiable risk factor for prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Diet quality, measuring a range of foods, food groups, and/or nutrients, has been widely applied in studies relating NCD mortality. Limited work currently exists regarding the investigation of unhealthy diet and multimorbidity, defined as the presence of two or more chronic medical conditions. Given that NCD mortality and multimorbidity increase with age, especially among women, this program of work aims to understand the association between diet quality and NCD (including multimorbidity) and all-cause mortality among the 1973-78 ALSWH cohort. |
| Project ID: A830 | **Association between change in diet quality scores and NCD mortality and multimorbidity (Study 3)**  |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Alexis Hure - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Meredith Tavener - School of Medicine and Public Health, Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle
* Prof Erica James - School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
* Hlaing Hlaing Hlaing - The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | For investigating diet-disease associations, overall diet quality, measuring a range of foods, food groups, and/or nutrients has been adopted and widely applied in measuring NCD mortality risk. Exploration of the relationship between diet quality and NCD multimorbidity (which is simultaneous presence of two or more chronic medical conditions) is scarce. Since NCD mortality and multimorbidity are more prevalent in older people and women, this work aims to recognize how improved diet quality is associated with NCD mortality and morbidity among the 1973-78 and 1946-51 cohorts of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women Health. |
| Project ID: A813A | **Dietary macronutrient intake and risk of cardiovascular disease in women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Sarah Zaman - Monash University / Monash Health
 |
| Other collaborators | * Allison Hodge - Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria
* A/Prof Lisa Moran - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Dr Anju Joham - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
* Sarah Gribbin - Monash University
* Dr Joanne Enticott - Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Heart disease is the number one killer of Australian women, claiming more than 10,000 lives per year. One way to reduce heart disease is through dietary interventions. Historically, a low-fat diet has been recommended, however, recent evidence has not linked this with higher survival. Diets modifying the amount/type of carbohydrates have become increasingly popular for weight loss and control of diabetes. However, the effects of changing carbohydrate and fat intake on the risk of heart disease in Australian women is not well known. This study aims to investigate if amount, proportion and types of carbohydrate and fat intake in the diet influences the chance of developing heart disease later in life. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Dietary carbohydrate and not saturated fat is associated with cardiovascular disease in a cohort of Australian women.* Gribbin S, Enticott J, Hodge A, Joham A & Zaman S. 69th Annual Scientific meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CZANZ), Adelaide, SA, 5-8 August 2021. |
| Project ID: A846 | **Stressful life events, diet quality and incident cardiometabolic disease** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Sabita Soedamah-Muthu - Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology, Tilburg University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Marianne Geleijnse - Wageningen University and Research
* Eline van Bennekom - Wageningen University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Existing literature supports the finding that diet and stress are associated with cardiometabolic disease, defined as CVD and diabetes. However, studies were often performed in men, although the onset and the course of illness differ between men and women. Symptoms of CVD in women are less specific and in both CVD and diabetes, risk factors have different effects on men and women. Furthermore, animal studies showed interaction effects between diet and stress influencing factors related to metabolic disease. The current study will further elucidate the interaction between stressful life events and diet and its influence on cardiometabolic disease in women. |
| Project ID: A756 | **Maternal diet before pregnancy and its effect on birth outcomes and child health and well-being** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dereje Gedle Gete - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Michael Waller - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Maternal diet has a significant role in ensuring successful pregnancy outcomes for the mother and her newborn. Nutrition requirements are generally higher in pregnancy to maintain maternal adaptations and the delivery of nutrients to the fetus. In addition, preconception diet is also important for an ideal onset and development of pregnancy since early pregnancy is a critical period for placental and fetal tissue developments. Therefore, maternal diets before pregnancy could have a profound effect on birth and child outcomes. |
| Publications | Effects of maternal diets on preterm birth and low birth weight: a systematic review. Gete DG, Waller M & Mishra GD. *British Journal of Nutrition*, 2019, 123(4); 446-461.Pre-pregnancy dietary patterns and risk of preterm birth and low birth weight: findings from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health. Gete DG, Waller M, Mishra GD. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 2020, 111(5); 1048-1058.Pre-pregnancy diet quality and its association with offspring behavioral problems. Gete DG, Waller M & Mishra GD. *European Journal of Nutrition*, 2020.Pre-pregnancy diet quality is associated with lowering the risk of offspring obesity and underweight: Findings from a prospective cohort study. Gete DG, Waller M & Mishra GD. *Nutrients*, 2021, 13(4); 1044. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Effects of maternal diets on preterm birth and low birth weight: a systematic review (poster presentation)*. Gete DG, Waller M & Mishra GD. 11th DOHaD World Congress, Melbourne, Vic 20-23 October 2019.*Pre-pregnancy diet quality and its association with offspring behavioral problems*. Gete DG, Waller M & Mishra GD. Nutrition 2020, Live Online 30 May - 2 June 2020. |

### Tobacco, alcohol and other drugs

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| Project ID: A705 | **Patterns of alcohol consumption over time and their relationship to mortality and breast cancer risk** |
| Lead Investigator | * Yi Yang - The University of Melbourne
 |
| Other collaborators | * Allison Hodge - Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria
* Prof Dallas English - The University of Melbourne
* Dr Brigid Lynch - Cancer Council Victoria
* Dr Pierre-Antoine Dugue - Cancer Council Victoria
* Dr Harindra Jayasekara - Cancer Council Victoria
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Alcohol consumption is an important modifiable risk factor of mortality and breast cancer risk. How alcohol consumption over time affects mortality and risk of breast cancer remains unclear. Our aims are to study the risk of death and incidence of breast cancer in relation to changes in pattern of consumption over time. This will offer a better understanding of how different long-term drinking profiles from mid-life onwards are related to subsequent risk of mortality and breast cancer risk.  |
| Project ID: A834 | **Substance use in the perinatal period: The impact upon perinatal care, physical health, mental health, pregnancy and birth outcomes and how risk factors moderate any effects** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Kylie Bailey - Psychology Department, University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Elizabeth Stojanovski - School of Mathematical & Physical Sciences, University of Newcastle
* Dr Julia Dray - The University of Newcastle
* Dr Beth Mah - Hunter New England Area Health
* Natalie Sinclair - Macquarie Drug and Alcohol Service, Mid North Coast Area Health
 |
| Liaison person | * Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Substance use has been associated with poor mental health, such as depression, anxiety, psychosis, self-harm and suicide. Substance use also contributes to poorer health and chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease and blood borne viruses. Substance use has also been associated with reduced use of health services, including GPs and antenatal care. Reasons for reduced service access for this patient population ranges from stigma and shame, financial costs, low income and transport difficulties. However, the specific effects of substance use on women of child-bearing age is under reported. We wish to investigate the rates of women reporting recent substance use (born 1973-1978 and 1989-1995) who report pregnancy and/or birth. We will also explore the health and perinatal outcomes of these women, and whether this changes over time. In addition, we will establish the contribution that various risk factors may make to associations between recent substance use in the perinatal period and the outcomes of interest. Understanding more about the complex presentation that women who use substances in the perinatal period is vital for service development. This project aims to advocate for the improvement in the quality of perinatal care provided to these women. |
| Project ID: A853 | **Alcohol intake in middle-aged Australian women and access to primary health care services** |
| Lead Investigator | * Suzannah Bownes - University of Notre Dame
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Craig Smith - University of Notre Dame Australia
* Dr Alexa Seal - University of Notre Dame Australia
* A/Prof Catherine Harding - University of Notre Dame Australia
* Dr Zelda Doyle - University of Notre Dame Australia
 |
| Liaison person | * Dr Amy Anderson - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The purpose of this project will be to explore the relationship between middle-aged Australian women who drink alcohol above the recommended amount, and access to primary health care services. We will analyse Survey 8 of the 1973-78 cohort to identify if and how frequently these women access primary health care services. The assumption being that if general practitioners are to opportunistically screen and undertake appropriate interventions with these women, we must first establish whether or not they attend primary health care.  |

### Mental health

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| Project ID: A762 | **Healthy mother, sustainable nation: A study into the factors averting poor perinatal mental health** |
| Lead Investigator | * Melissa Sherrel Pereira - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Catherine Chojenta - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Nicole Reilly - University of Wollongong
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Occurrence of depression and anxiety in the perinatal period have devastating consequences on the mother, child and the immediate family. This project will investigate the preventative factors associated with poor perinatal mental health in women with a history of depression and anxiety. This project involves data linkage where data from the Medicare Benefit Schedule will be utilized to analyse access to therapy prior to and during the perinatal period. Other known risk factors for poor mental health will be controlled for in the analyses. |
| Project ID: A772 | **Patterns of long-term antidepressant use** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Maria Donald - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Edgar Poon - School of Pharmacy, The University of Queensland
* Dr Samantha Hollingworth - School of Pharmacy, The University of Queensland
* Prof Jayne Lucke - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Mieke van Driel - The University of Queensland
* Dr Johanna Lynch - The University of Queensland
* Dr Zaimin Wang - Faculty of Medicine, the University of Queensland
* Dr Treasure McGuire - School of Pharmacy, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Antidepressants are an effective treatment for acute major depressive disorders but they are often also used for mild or moderate depression for which evidence of effectiveness is lacking. An emerging body of research suggests that treatment discontinuation be considered for some long-term users of antidepressants, especially those with mild to moderate depression treated in the community. Australia has the second highest antidepressant prescribing rate in the world and the average duration of treatment is considerably longer than the guideline‑recommended six to twelve months. This suggests that attempts to cease antidepressants for a number of patients are either not occurring as frequently as guidance recommends, and/or attempts are unsuccessful. Our study aims to better understand the patterns of long‑term antidepressant use. |
| Project ID: A806 | **The role of healthy and unhealthy dietary patterns on depression in Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Megan Lee - Southern Cross University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Allison Hodge - Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria
* Dr Joanne Bradbury - Southern Cross University
* A/Prof Jacqui Yoxall - Southern Cross University
* Sally Sargeant - Southern Cross University
* Dr Alison Bowling - Southern Cross University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | The role of nutrition in chronic lifestyle diseases such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes is well known. However, the role of nutrition in mental health is lesser known. In Australia, over 3 million people live with the symptoms of depression, with more women experiencing symptoms than men. Research suggests that dietary patterns rich in fresh fruit, vegetables, wholegrains, nuts, seeds, legumes, lean meat and water may protect against depressive symptoms and that dietary patterns high in processed, refined and sugary foods could contribute to the symptoms of depression. This project aims to examine the relationship between Australian women’s dietary patterns and depression. |
| Project ID: A823 | **Impact of residential greenspace on mental health of Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Tafzila Akter Mouly - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* A/Prof Luke Knibbs - Honorary Principal Fellow, The University of Queensland
* Prof Mark Nieuwenhuijsen - Barcelona Institute for Global Health
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | This project will examine the effects of neighbourhood greenspace on the mental health of Australian women. Research on greenspace and mental health has been driven by an emerging interest in the last decade. However, most of the evidence came from cross-sectional studies. Moreover, several studies used historical environmental exposure data, which are not always spatially and temporally well‑aligned with a participant’s residential address(es). ALSWH has mental health data collected by regular surveys as well as geocoded residential addresses. These data will allow investigation of the longitudinal association between spatially and temporally aligned residential greenspace and mental health in a large, national cohort of Australian women. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Impact of residential greenspace on the mental health of Australian women (poster presentation)*. Mouly TA, Knibbs L & Mishra G. Queensland Women's Health Forum 2021, 27-28 May 2021. |
| Project ID: A837 | **Associations between eating disorders in mothers and children’s diet and weight** |
| Lead Investigator | * A/Prof Leigh Tooth - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Katrina Moss - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* Dr Caley Tapp - The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Eating disorders (for example, binge-eating disorder, anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa) are mental health disorders characterised by disturbances in eating behaviours. Eating disorders can significantly impact a woman’s emotional, psychosocial and physical well-being. Recent research has found children of mothers with eating disorders to be at increased risk of difficulties in feeding (for e.g., breastfeeding initiation and cessation) and eating behaviours, cognitive and motor developmental difficulties, to display more emotional and behavioural difficulties, and to be more likely described as having a difficult temperament. The long-term impacts of a history of disordered eating and the impact this may have on the subsequent health of both the women with the history of disordered eating and her child/ren is less well known, particularly in older children (over 3 years). Of particular interest is the potential impact on a child’s diet, body weight, general development and psychosocial health and whether effects are similar for siblings. This study aims to examine these associations. |

### Ageing

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| Project ID: A815 | **The interface between Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF) and Acute Hospital Care for Australian women living in RACF, and possible variables that influence the interface** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Sarwoko Andi Pramono – The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The aim of this research is to investigate the interface between residential aged care facilities (RACF) and acute health care facilities (including emergency transfer), and the outcomes of the transfer upon Australian women living in RACF. The study also aims to identify factors that may influence any possible reduction of unnecessary transfers. The study will examine longitudinal data from ALSWH which is linked to external data. This research will provide important evidence that will assist in quality improvement activities, planning and policy development. It will identify opportunities to reduce unnecessary transfer which may consequently reduce potential adverse impacts of transfer that may influence health care service related costs such as transfer, hospitalisation, treatment and medication costs. |
| Project ID: A836 | **Perception and lived experience of older women about the effect poor eyesight on driving** |
| Lead Investigator | * Mitiku Teshome Hambisa - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Jennifer White - University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This research seeks to understand the perceptions and experience of older women in Australia regarding transportation challenges. We are particularly interested in the experiences of women who have poor vision (due to cataract, macular degeneration or other causes) and stopped driving, and comparing these experiences with those of women who continued driving. We will examine themes identified from older women’s free-text comments provided over 8 years (from 2002-2019), contrasting those who drive themselves and those who do not. Qualitative descriptive analysis will be used. |

### Health service use and systems

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| Project ID: A713 | **Understanding Australian women’s hospital use dynamics in later life: The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dinberu Shebeshi - The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | The project aims to characterise multiple hospital admission patterns among older Australian women. While frequent hospital admissions over time are very common in older patients, most studies have identified trends in hospitalisation, time to first hospitalisation, or factors associated with first hospitalisation. This ignores the existence of subsequent hospitalisation and correlations between different admissions. Our study will examine multiple events including factors associated with each event, and the relationship between events. The study will also provide evidence regarding older women’s hospital use for policy makers. |
| Publications | Estimating unplanned and planned hospitalization incidents among older Australian women aged 75 years and over: The presence of death as a competing risk. Shebeshi DS, Dolja-Gore X & Byles J. *International Journal of Health Planning and Management.*, 2020, 35(5); 1219-1231.Charlson Comorbidity Index as a predictor of repeated hospital admission and mortality among older women diagnosed with cardiovascular disease. Shebeshi DS, Dolja-Gore X & Byles J. *Aging Clinical and Experimental Research*, 2021.Validation of hospital frailty risk score to predict hospital use in older people: Evidence from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health. Shebeshi DS, Dolja-Gore X & Byles J. *Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics*, 2021, 92; 104282.Unplanned readmission within 28 days of hospital discharge in a longitudinal population-based cohort of older Australian women. Shebeshi DS, Dolja-Gore X & Byles J. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2020, (17); 3136. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Modelling unplanned and planned hospitalisation incidents (2001-2016) in older Australian women aged 75 years and above: In the presence of death as a competing event.* Shebeshi D. 6th African International Conference (AIC) on Statistics, Adama, Ethiopia, 27 - 30 May. |
| Project ID: A783 | **Effect of medication reviews on patient and health outcomes among older women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Kaeshaelya Thiruchelvam – The University of Newcastle
* Dr Syed Hasan - University of Huddersfield
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dominic Cavenagh - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* A/Prof Therese Kairuz - The University of Newcastle
* Dr Pei Se Wong - International Medical University, Malaysia
* Nick Egan - Centre for Women’s Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | In Australia, the Residential Medication Management Review (RMMR) is provided for people in aged care facilities, and the Domiciliary Medication Management Review (DMMR) is provided for community‑dwelling older people. These services are remunerated by the Australian Government and have been shown to improve medication use and patient-reported and health outcomes. This study seeks to determine uptake of medication reviews among women of the ALSWH cohort of 1921-1926, and how they relate to overall medication use, particularly the use of inappropriate medications. |
| Publications | Common combinations of medications used among oldest-old women: A population-based study over 15 years. Thiruchelvan K, Byles J, Hasan SS, Egan N, Cavenagh D & Kairuz T. *Aging Clinical and Experimental Research*, 2021, 33(7): 1919-1928.Prevalence and association of continuous polypharmacy and frailty among older women: A longitudinal analysis over 15 years. Thiruchelvam K, Byles J, Hasan SS, Egan N & Kairuz T. *Maturitas*, 2021, 146; 18-25.Frailty and potentially inappropriate medications using the 2019 Beers Criteria: Findings from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (ALSWH). Thiruchelvam K, Byles J, Hasan SS, Egan N, Kairuz T. *Aging Clinical and Experimental Research*, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40520-020-01772-0> Residential Medication Management Reviews and continuous polypharmacy among older Australian women. Thiruchelvam K, Byles J, Hasan SS, Egan N & Kairuz T. *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy*, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11096-021-01294-3>  |
| Conference / Presentations | *Uptake of medication reviews among older women in the ALSWH (poster presentation)*. Thiruchelvam K, Hasan SS, Wong PS, Byles J & Kairuz T. 52nd AAG Conference, Sydney, NSW, 5-8 November. |
| Project ID: A796 | **Dental health in Australia – assessing the participatory, utilisation and health outcomes of the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Jane Hall - Centre for Health Economic Research and Evaluation, University of Technology Sydney
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Kees Van Gool - Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation, University of Technology Sydney
* Dr Maryam Naghsh Nejad - Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation, University of Technology Sydney
* Siobhan Dickinson - Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation, University of Technology Sydney
 |
| Liaison person | * Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | With calls to expand Medicare to include dental services and the noted fiscal costs associated with such an expansion, it is important to understand what the outcomes might be. The addition of the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme (CDDS) on Medicare between 2007 and 2013 represented an expansion of public health insurance to cover dental services for those with a chronic disease. This study will seek to identify the drivers of program participation and whether the CDDS increased the utilisation of dental services for the intended population. This study is important to inform future policy in relation to any proposed universal dental health scheme.  |
| Project ID: A675A | **Patterns of health service use by older women in their last year of life** |
| Lead Investigator | * Chris Harrington - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Xenia Dolja-Gore - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Peter Saul - Palliative Care, Newcastle Private
* Dr Charles Douglas - School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | This project aims to identify health service and opioid use in the year prior to death, for women aged over 65, using cause of death data from the National Death Index for women who died during years 2002 - 2017 nationally, and to the most recent date for which there is hospital data for NSW. The intention is to identify whether there are different patterns of service use by women with cancer, women with heart failure and whether women in the community with advanced illness are prescribed opioids. Service and medication use will be described according to time in relation to death. Factors potentially affecting use include age at death, cause of death, place of death (hospital, (public/private) home) hospital admission and specialist procedures, comorbid conditions, living arrangement and other sociodemographic variables. |

### Chronic conditions

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| Project ID: A754 | **Signs and symptoms as predictors of COPD in women.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Roger Engel - Macquarie University
 |
| Other collaborators | * Vladylena Farion – Macquarie University
* Dr Katie de Luca - Department of Chiropractic, Macquarie University
* Dr Petra Graham - Macquarie University
* A/Prof Subramanyam Vemulpad - Macquarie University
* Dr Masoumeh Kaboli Farshchi - Macquarie University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
 |
| Project description | Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is characterised by progressive loss of lung function. The main symptoms are breathlessness, cough, sputum production, chest tightness and falling exercise capacity. Many sufferers are unaware of their condition and attribute the symptoms to ageing or a lack of fitness. Identifying the signs and symptoms that herald the beginning of the disease is essential to improving prognosis. The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (ALSWH) provides an ideal opportunity to study the development of these early signs and symptoms in women who have been diagnosed with COPD. We are now conducting additional analyses looking at the early signs and symptoms in women who have been diagnosed with COPD who never smoked |
| Publications | Breathing difficulty, chest and back pain predict bronchitis and emphysema in women. Engel RM, de Luca K, Graham P, Kaboli Farshchi M, Vemulpad S & Byles J. *Respirology*, 2019, 24(S1); 72. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Breathing difficulty, chest and back pain predict bronchitis and emphysema in women.* Engel RM, de Luca K, Graham P, Kaboli Farshchi M, Vemulpad S & Byles J. 2019 Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand Scientific Research Society Annual Scientific Meeting, Gold Coast, QLD, 29 March - 2 April 2019.*Breathing difficulty, chest and back pain predict bronchitis and emphysema in women: A potential role for chiropractors in chronic respiratory disease management?* Engel R, De Luca K, Graham P, Kaboli Farshchi M, Vemulpad S & Byles J. Chiropractic Australia National Conference, Gold Coast, QLD 23 - 25 August*A potential role for chiropractors in the early detection and management of women at risk of developing chronic respiratory disease later in life.* Engel R, De Luca K, Graham P, Kaboli Farshchi M, Vemulpad S, Byles J. Australian Chiropractors Association Conference, Melbourne, VIC, 18 - 20 October. |
| Project ID: A821 | **Modifiable risk factors for cardiovascular disease among women with and without a history of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Melinda Hutchesson - The University of Newcastle
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Amanda Patterson - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Clare Collins - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Tracy Schumacher - Department of Rural Health, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Rachael Taylor - The University of Newcastle
* Dr Vanessa Shrewsbury - The University of Newcastle
* Dr Lisa Vincze - Griffith University
* Ker Nee Ding – The University of Newcastle
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Women with a history of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (HDP) (i.e., pre-eclampsia, gestational hypertension and chronic hypertension) are at higher risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD). Little is known about the rates of modifiable risk factors for CVD (i.e., unhealthy diet, physical inactivity/sedentary behaviour, smoking, excessive alcohol intake, excess body weight and poor mental health) following HDP. Our aim is to: a) describe the rates of individual and multiple modifiable risk factors for CVD among women following a HDP, and b) compare the odds of individual and multiple modifiable risk factors for CVD between women with and without a history of HDP. |

### Social factors in health and wellbeing

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| Project ID: A721 | **What can time allocation tell us about cancer recovery?** |
| Lead Investigator | * Ni Gao - Health Economics Research Unit, University of Aberdeen
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Mandy Ryan - Health Economic Research Unit, University of Aberdeen
* Dr Nicolas Krucien - Health Economic Research Unit, University of Aberdeen
* Dr Richard Norman - School of Public Health, Curtin University
* Dr Suzanne Robinson - School of Public Health, Curtin University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Annette Dobson - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Return to work is considered as a main indicator of cancer recovery. This approach omits that women are main contributors of unpaid work, and they may engage in leisure which is crucial in the recovery journey. Moreover, return to work is considered at a single time point, leaving employment trajectories unknown. To provide a comprehensive picture of cancer recovery, this study will use time allocation to link paid work, unpaid work and leisure activities. The study will investigate: (i) time allocation across paid work, unpaid work and leisure activities after cancer treatment; (ii) how time allocation impacts health service usage; and iii) dynamic changes in employment after cancer treatment. |
| Publications | Paid work, household work, or leisure? Time allocation pathways among women following a cancer diagnosis. Gao N, Ryan M, Krucien N, Robinson S & Norman R. *Social Science & Medicine*, 2020, 246; 112776. |
| Conference / Presentations | *Work or leisure: Do time use patterns impact wellbeing among women living with a breast cancer diagnosis?* Gao N, Ryan M, Harris M, Krucien N, Norman R & Robinson, S. 41st International Association for Time Use Research Conference, Washington DC, United States 10-12 July 2019. |
| Project ID: A767 | **Minority stress, and access to health care for non- heterosexual women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Meredith Burgess - Institute of Social Science Research, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Dr Francisco Perales - Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland
* Prof Janeen Baxter - Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Non-heterosexual women experience poorer health outcomes than heterosexual women, but the reasons for this remain unclear. Previous studies suggest that interactions with healthcare settings are more uncomfortable for non-heterosexual than heterosexual women, which may prompt these women not to seek healthcare access and, as a result, experience worse health. We will examine whether these premises hold in Australia using different cohorts of ALSWH data. |
| Project ID: A818 | **An examination of low social support during pregnancy and its effect on mental health, quality of life and healthy lifestyle behaviours of pregnant women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Asres Bedaso - University of Technology Sydney
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Jon Adams - School of Public Health, University of Technology Sydney
* Prof David Sibbritt - Faculty of Health, University of Technology Sydney
* Dr WenBo (Penny) Peng - Faculty of Health, University of Technology Sydney
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | Pregnancy is one of the important natural processes in women in which many biological, physiological and psychosocial changes are experienced. It is accompanied by hormonal changes and can represent a time of increased risk for the occurrence of behavioural and mental health problems. Several studies have shown that depressive symptoms, anxiety, and stress during pregnancy are risk factors for adverse outcomes for women and infants. One major risk factor affecting maternal well-being and reason for the occurrence of negative birth outcomes is lack of social support during pregnancy (LSS). LSS during pregnancy worsens the psychological health of the pregnant woman and negatively affects her healthy lifestyle behaviours. It has been suggested that effective SS, mainly providing emotional and instrumental support, is protective by minimizing the impact of stress on the emotional well-being of the mother. This prospective cohort study will examine risk factors for low social support during pregnancy and its effect on mental health, quality of life and healthy lifestyle behaviours of pregnant women. We have submitted manuscripts to journals - current status is: * Relevance and determinants of low social support during pregnancy among Australian women: A community-based cross-sectional study. (Accepted for publication in *Reproductive Health*).
* The association between social support and the risk of antenatal depressive and anxiety symptoms among Australian women. (Under review in *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*).
 |
| Publications | Prevalence and determinants of low social support during pregnancy among Australian women: A community-based cross-sectional study. Bedaso A, Adams J, Peng W & Sibbritt D. *Reproductive Health*, 2021, 18; 158. |

### Other

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| Project ID: A822B | **The association between maternal and childhood NO2 and PM2.5 exposure and health and development of Australian children.** |
| Lead Investigator | * Salma Mohamed Ahmed - School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
* A/Prof Luke Knibbs - Honorary Principal Fellow, The University of Queensland
* Prof Ian Yang - Faculty of Medicine, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | In 2016-2017, mothers from the 1973-78 ALSWH cohort were invited to participate in MatCH to complete a survey about their children (aged under 13 years). Recently, air pollution exposure estimates (nitrogen dioxide and fine particulate matter) have been linked to geocoded residential addresses of ALSWH participants. Therefore, the purpose of this project is to understand the health impact of decade long air pollution exposures experienced first-hand by mothers on the generation that follows as well as how environment contributes to disease risk in their children.  |
| Conference Presentations | *Roadway proximity and children’s behaviour and psychomotor development: A cross-sectional study among Mothers and their Children’s Health study in Australia (poster presentation)*. Ahmed S, Knibbs LD & Mishra GD. Queensland Women's Health Forum 2021, Brisbane, QLD, 27-28 May 2021.*Residential proximity to roadways and children’s behaviour and psychomotor development: Findings from the Mothers and their Children’s Health study.* Ahmed S. International Society for Environmental Epidemiology Virtual Conference, 23-26 August 2020. |

## Completed

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| Project ID: A673 | **Urinary incontinence in the 1989-95 cohort** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Tayla Lamerton - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
* Dr Gregore Mielke - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
* Dr Emma Beckman - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Studies, The University of Queensland
* Prof Jill Cook - Department of Rehabilitation, Nutrition and Sport, La Trobe University
* A/Prof Helena Frawley - Department of Rehabilitation, Nutrition and Sport, La Trobe University
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Wendy Brown - School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, The University of Queensland
 |
| Project description | The aim was to improve understanding of urinary incontinence (UI) in the 1989-95 cohort: prevalence, predictors and outcomes. Given their higher BMI , we were interested in the prevalence of UI in this cohort and its determinants in comparison with those already studied in the 1973-78 cohort. |
| Publications | Overweight and obesity as major, modifiable risk factors for urinary incontinence in young to mid-aged women: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Lamerton TJ, Torquati L & Brown WJ. *Obesity Reviews*, 2018, 19(12); 1735-1745.Urinary incontinence in young women: Risk factors, management strategies, help-seeking behavior, and perceptions about bladder control. Lamerton TJ, Mielke GI & Brown WJ. *Neurourology and Urodynamics*, 2020. |
| Conference Presentations | *Excess weight, physical activity, and urinary incontinence in young women: Findings from the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women’s Health.* Lamerton T. The 2019 ASICS Sports Medicine Australia (SMA) Conference, Sunshine Coast, QLD 23 - 26 October 2019.*Associations of physical activity and body mass index with urinary incontinence in young, Australian women* (poster presentation). Lamerton TJ, Mielke G & Brown WJ. Queensland Women's Health Forum 2021, Brisbane, QLD, 27-28 May. |
| Project ID: A824 | **Women as producers in health** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Marcin Sowa - The University of Queensland
 |
| Other collaborators | * Yufan Wang - Centre for the Business Economics of Health, The University of Queensland
 |
| Liaison person | * Prof Gita Mishra - Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Research, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland
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| Project description | This project used an econometric analysis based on a health production function approach to study the roles of lifestyles and health practices of women. This approach deems health practices as inputs into the production of good health. The project aimed to investigate if such inputs have been changing over the past decades, making women in the younger cohort more efficient producers of health.We found that most of the lifestyle practices that comply with the Alameda Seven are positively related to self‑assessed health (SAH) outcomes. For all the 4 different lifestyle behaviours that we examined (Moderate exercise, Vigorous exercise, Drink, Good sleep, No smoking), by engaging in these lifestyle behaviours, women have higher probability of being in a higher SAH category. By increasing the time spent in moderate or vigorous physical activities, there is a significant relationship for women to report better health. The magnitudes of these associations with SAH rise as the amount of time spent exercising each week increases. For drinking, compared to women who never drink alcohol, an increase in consumption of alcohol also has a positive relationship with better health outcomes. With reference to trouble sleeping, women who experience no trouble sleeping will have a significant increase in probability of reporting better SAH. Lastly, by reducing the consumption of cigarettes, women have significantly higher chances of having better SAH scores. With reference to being normal weight, being underweight, overweight or obese will lead to a significant decrease in SAH. Similarly, for women who are under stress, any increase in stress levels in women will lead to a decrease in chances of reporting better SAH outcomes. Finally, we found no significant associations between the lifestyle behaviours of eating meals regularly and snacking with SAH outcomes.All the above findings from lifestyle behaviours reconfirmed our hypothesis that good lifestyle behaviours could lead individuals to report better health outcomes.Regarding the inter-generation impacts of lifestyle behaviours across cohorts - the younger generation women are much less likely to report better SAH compared to the older generation. This is evident from our AME analysis that when comparing each lifestyle practice, the younger generation cohort tends to have a lower probability of reporting higher SAH.Lastly, our results also suggest that demographics and socio‑economic factors such as education, income and employment increase the probabilities of women in being in a  higher SAH category.  |
| Project ID: A714 | **Lifestyle behaviours in cancer survivors: Measuring the teachable moment of cancer diagnosis** |
| Lead Investigator | * Prof Erica James - School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
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| Other collaborators | * Dr Daniel Tollosa - School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle
* Dr Meredith Tavener - School of Medicine and Public Health, Health and Ageing, University of Newcastle
* Dr Alexis Hure - College of Health, Medicine and Wellbeing, The University of Newcastle
* A/Prof Liz Holliday - Clinical Research Design, Information Technology and Statistical Support (CReDITSS) Unit, The University of Newcastle
* Mark Jones - Clinical Research Design, IT and Statistical Support (CReDTSS), Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI)
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| Liaison person | * Prof Julie Byles - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
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| Project description | Given advancements in early detection, treatment, and survivorship care, the number of cancer survivors has been steadily increasing over the past few decades. However, recurrence and co-morbidities are still a major concern for cancer survivors. Lifestyle factors such as healthy diet, physical activity and maintaining a healthy weight can reduce cancer related consequences and improve overall survival in the aftermath of a cancer diagnosis. It has also been suggested that the diagnosis of cancer may provide a ‘teachable moment’ when survivors may be more receptive to health recommendations and more likely to make lifestyle changes. However, despite the existence of lifestyle recommendations, and the potential for a teachable moment, the lifestyle behaviours of cancer survivors remain similar to those without a cancer history. The aim of this series of studies is, therefore: i) to examine the practice of multiple health behaviours, ii) to assess if there is evidence of a teachable moment where cancer survivors improve compliance with lifestyle recommendations following a cancer diagnosis (compared to age-matched controls), and iii) to assess if any change in behaviours are maintained over time. |
| Publications | Compliance with multiple health behaviour recommendations: A cross-sectional comparison between female cancer survivors and those with no cancer history. Tollosa DN, Tavener M, Hure A & James EL. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2019, 16(8); 1345.Multiple health behaviors before and after a cancer diagnosis among women: A repeated cross-sectional analysis over 15 years. Tollosa DN, Holliday E, Hure A, Tavener M, James EL. *Cancer Medicine*, 2020, 9(9); 3224-3233.A 15-year follow-up study on long-term adherence to health behaviour recommendations in women diagnosed with breast cancer. Tollosa DN, Holliday E, Hure A, Tavener M & James EL. *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment*, 2020, 182(3); 727-738. |
| Conference / Presentations | *A 15-year follow-up study on long-term adherence to health behaviour recommendations in women diagnosed with breast cancer (poster presentation).* Tollosa D. 2020 International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA), Advancing Behavior Change Science, Auckland, New Zealand (online), 17 - 20 June 2020. |
| Project ID: A701A | **Electronic cigarette and conventional cigarette smoking among Australian women** |
| Lead Investigator | * Dr Alemu Sufa Melka - The University of Newcastle
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| Other collaborators | * Dr Catherine Chojenta - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Prof Deborah Loxton - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
* Peta Forder - Centre for Women's Health Research, The University of Newcastle
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| Final report | E-cigarette use is a globally contentious topic. Most of the previous studies on e-cigarette use have not examined differences in usage in relation to gender. The findings regarding the association between e‑cigarette use and subsequent cigarette smoking initiation and smoking cessation are also inconsistent. In Australia, no studies have investigated the association between e-cigarette use and smoking initiation among young adults who have never smoked. Additionally, few population-based longitudinal studies have investigated the association of e-cigarette use with smoking cessation, either internationally or in Australia. This thesis aims to identity and investigate the risk and protective factors of e-cigarette use and the role that e-cigarettes play in smoking initiation and cessation in Australian women.*Methods*. This thesis used online survey data collected from the ALSWH 1989-95 cohort. The research was conducted to identify the risk and protective factors of e-cigarette use and the role that e‑cigarettes play in smoking initiation and smoking cessation.*Results*. Young age, smoking status, alcohol use, intimate partner violence and adverse childhood experiences (i.e., traumatic childhood experiences) were identified as factors that positively associated with e-cigarette use in the study population. This thesis discovered that although ‘ever e-cigarette use’ is associated with subsequent cigarette smoking among never smokers, it also hinders subsequent cigarette smoking cessation among current smokers. Conversely, an umbrella review found that most nicotine and non-nicotine drugs (e.g., NRT, bupropion and varenicline) are effective treatments for smoking cessation.*Conclusions*. Certain efforts are required to prevent young people and non-smokers from nicotine addiction that is acquired through e‑cigarette use. Subsequent interventions to curb the use of e-cigarettes among young Australian women should target risk factors such as young people, alcoholics, people with a history of intimate partner violence and people exposed to childhood adversities.  |
| Publications | Predictors of e-cigarette use among young Australian women. Melka AS, Chojenta CL, Holliday EG & Loxton DJ. *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, 2019, 56(2); 293-299.Adverse childhood experiences and electronic cigarette use among young Australian women. Melka A, Chojenta C, Holliday E & Loxton D. *Preventive Medicine*, 2019, 126; 105759.E-cigarette use and cigarette smoking initiation among Australian women who have never smoked. Melka AS, Chojenta CL, Holliday EG & Loxton DJ. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 2020. |